hind the middle of the elytra and a sutural vitta. In the ♂ the rostrum is equal to three-fourths the length of the body; in the ♀ it is equal to five-fourths. I believe it breeds entirely in hickory nuts.

What I take to be *rectus*, on the contrary, has a finer, lighter-coloured rostrum which is much more rectilinear, especially in the ♀; and it always differs from *nasicus* in having no bands or *vittæ*, the elytra being uniformly spotted as in *sparsus* Schœn. This is the species I breed from acorns, and I believe it also infests hazel-nuts.

There are several other species which closely resemble these two and seem to connect them, and I am satisfied that we can do very little in classifying them until their habits and variations are better understood.—

C. V. RILEY.

A PHENOMENON.—The Ashy Blister Beetle, *Lytta cinerea* Fab. (*Macrobasis Fabricii* LeConte) was very destructive to the potato vines in several parts of the Province of Quebec during last July. In some places it was exceedingly abundant, and attacked the Windsor bean as well as the potato. Five years ago it was also very common. Its appearance this year gave occasion to an article in one of the French newspapers published in Three Rivers, which is such a wonderful production that it is well worthy of being placed on record. Entomologists will have a smile at it, and think that a little better acquaintance with insect life would do our farmers and journalists no harm. The following is a free translation of the article:—

"A NEW PLAGUE.

"We are threatened, it would seem, by a new plague. A citizen, a good observer, reports to us that he has noticed the following phenomenon in a fine field of potatoes on his grounds in this town. He tells us that he has found on his potatoes a large quantity of blue beasts (winged, and the colour of blue stone), which rapidly devoured all the leaves of the plants, leaving only the bare stems. He gathered more than a quart of these insects. After some time, the insect undergoes a change. It dries in the sun, an opening appears beside the shoulders, near the neck, and a very active fly emerges, at first of a blue colour, which alights on the cabbages, and doubtless continues its ravages there. As it grows older, this fly becomes grass-coloured, probably on account of feeding on the cabbage leaves. This subject is a most important one, and merits the close attention of our agriculturists."

What can the "active fly" be, which makes its appearance in such an