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## ENTOMOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS.

BY THE EDITOR.

### *THE EYED ELATER—*Alaus oculatus*.*

This is the largest of our Elaters or "spring beetles," and is found with its larva in the decaying wood of old apple and other trees. The beetle, fig. 7, is about an inch and a half—sometimes more—in length, of a black color, sprinkled with numerous whitish dots. On the thorax there are two large velvety black eye-like spots, from which has arisen the common name of the insect. The thorax is about one-third the length of the body and is powdered with whitish; the wing cases are ridged with longitudinal lines, and the under side of the body and legs thickly powdered with white. It is found in the perfect state in June and July; is active in the daytime, flying about with a loud buzzing noise.

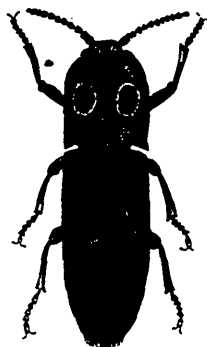


Fig. 7.

The mature larva, which attains its full growth early in April, is about two and a half inches long, nearly four-tenths of an inch across about the middle, tapering slightly towards each extremity. The head is broad, brownish and rough above, the jaws very strong, curved and pointed, the terminal segment of the body blackish, roughened with small pointed tubercles, with a deep semi-circular notch at the end, armed at the sides with small teeth, the two hindermost of which are long, forked and curved upwards like hooks. Under this hinder segment is a large fleshy foot, armed behind with little claws, and around the sides with short spines; it has six true legs, a pair under each of the first three segments. Early in spring the larva casts its skin and becomes a chrysalis, and in due time emerges a perfect beetle.

This beetle, when placed upon its back on a flat surface, has the power of springing suddenly into the air, and while moving, turning its