

brighter in color as it matures. The head is black, and there is a ring of the same color on the second segment. There are also two rows of black spots along each side.

The perfect beetle is of a yellowish cream color, with ten black lines or stripes, running lengthways, and a few black dots on the head and thorax. There are three broods of this insect during each year, the last of which remains in the ground during the winter. Some idea of its enormous rate of increase may be gathered from the fact that each female deposits from 700 to 1000 eggs, and that these attain to the perfect beetle state within fifty days, so that the results from a single pair, if allowed to increase without molestation, would, in one season, amount to over fifty millions. The insect, in its several forms of egg, larva and perfect beetle, may frequently be found in company on the same potato vine.

ITS NATURAL FOOD.

This insect was originally confined to a comparatively small extent of country, in the region of the Rocky Mountains, where it fed on a species of wild potato, *Solanum rostratum*; but having suddenly acquired a taste for the cultivated potato, and adopting that as its principal food, it has gradually spread eastward, until it has invaded our shores. It feeds also readily on many other plants belonging to the order *Solanaceæ*, which includes the tomato and egg-plant as well as the potato—all of interest to the agriculturist—as well as many species of wild plants, such as Black Henbane, *Hyoscyamus niger*, and Thorn-apple, *Datura Stramonium*.

THE THREE-LINED POTATO BEETLE.

FIG. 2.



Colors—Pale yellow & black.

The Colorado, or ten-lined beetle, must not be confounded with the smaller three-lined potato beetle, *Lema trilineata*—Oliv. See figure 2—which has been common throughout Canada for many years past, and is, at the present time, unusually abundant in some districts, especially in the neighbourhood of Kincardine.

The larva of this beetle (see fig. 3) is smaller, and may be readily distinguished by its disgusting habit of carrying its excrement on its back.

FIG. 3.



Colors—Dull white.