

blackish dots more numerous on some specimens than on others. The hind wings are sometimes paler than the fore wings, and at other times tinged with orange red, while in other specimens we have observed that the under surface of the fore wings assumed a dull rosy hue. The body is a little deeper and richer in colour than the wings, and the abdomen is ornamented with longitudinal rows of black dots; on the upper surface there is a row down the middle of the back, and one on each side, and on the under surface there are sometimes two additional rows of smaller dots.

Although this insect is so common and well known in its larval condition, it is not often seen on the wing. It flies at night, and being seldom attracted by lights, it rarely finds its way into our houses. It is also probably subject to the attacks of ichneumons, which destroy some of the caterpillars before they reach maturity.

ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SOME GENERA OF CANADIAN INSECTS.

BY FRANCIS WALKER, LONDON, ENGLAND.

Before leaving the Canadian *Chalcidæ*, in hope of returning to them when many more genera are discovered in Canada, I will mention *Megastigmus*, which very probably occurs there; it is a genus of *Torymidæ*, and, in some respects, connects that family with the *Eurytomidæ*, and is next to the latter in the interest with which it may be regarded in case there is a foundation for the report lately published concerning the seed-eating habits of the species which represent it in California. But this does not seem probable, as it is certainly carnivorous in Europe, where two species exceed the others in beauty and are especially conspicuous, the great *M. giganteus* that maintains itself on the *Cynips* of a one-chambered gall in the Mediterranean region, and *M. dorsalis* that, with various other species, lives on the substance of the *Cynips* of the many-chambered Oak Apple of North Europe. I have seen other species near London and in the Alpine vallies of Switzerland, and they are attractive on account of their comparative rarity, though their economy is but little known. The natural history of the Australian species may be unknown for some time to come, and I hope that its discovery will be preceded by attention to the Canadian galls and to their parasitic inhabitants.