

July 16th, when one of them, a male, reached maturity. At this time I had but one other living nymph, all the others having died, or having been killed by their mates or by ants in the vials with them, previous to the middle of July. This remaining nymph, a female, reached maturity on Aug. 6th, and died Sept. 5th, having lived on a diet of flies for a period of about seven weeks.

On June 30, 1908, I forwarded to Dr. L. O. Howard, Washington, D. C., a few of the nymphs which had died in confinement, and these were determined by Mr. A. N. Caudell as *O. quadripunctatus*, Beutenm. On Sept. 16, I forwarded to Dr. Howard the specimens that had reached maturity, with the request that these be placed in the collections at Washington. In reply, I received a letter from Mr. C. L. Marlatt, Acting Chief of the Bureau of Entomology, in which he stated that the specimens had been referred to Mr. Caudell, who submitted the following report :

"For some time I have had *Æcanthus quadripunctatus*, Beutenm., marked in the collection as a variety of *nigricornis*, Walker, and this rearing by Mr. Houghton proves that it is so. The nymphs sent some time ago, in the early part of July, showed the basal two segments of the antennæ each with two spots, as is characteristic of *quadripunctatus*. The adults now received, which are from the same deposition of eggs, are typically *nigricornis*. Thus the name *quadripunctatus* falls as a specific name, though I shall continue its use to indicate the adult forms in which the antennal markings remain separate."

Of course, it is possible, though hardly probable, that the eggs which I collected on April 12th were laid by two different species ; and some of my nymphs doubtless came from each of the three or four rows of eggs that I had under observation. My own opinion in the matter, however, is that Beutenmuller's *quadripunctatus* is simply a variety of Walker's *nigricornis*, as the above breeding experiments would seem to indicate. Additional data to support this theory are to be found in the fact that later in the season (Sept. and Oct., 1908) I found the typical *nigricornis* and its variety *argentinus* intimately associated with *quadripunctatus* in depositing eggs in long rows in young peach trees at Newark, Del., and in captivity a ♂ *quadripunctatus* mated with a ♀ *argentinus*.

In confinement the species under observation the past season acted much as did the nymphs of *niveus*, already reported upon. They fed freely upon various kinds of plant-lice and flies, and occasionally developed cannibalistic tendencies, the larger eating the smaller when two individuals were enclosed in one shell vial. In one instance a nymph