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THE GOLDSMITH BEETLE (*Cotalpa lanigera*).

BY THE EDITOR.

This is, without doubt, the most beautiful of our leaf-eating beetles. It is nearly an inch in length (fig. 9), of a broad oval form, with the wing cases of a rich yellow color, with a pale metallic lustre, while the top of the head and thorax gleams like burnished gold of a brilliant reddish cast. The under surface has a polished coppery hue, and is thickly covered with whitish wool; this latter characteristic having suggested its specific name *lanigera* (wool-bearer).

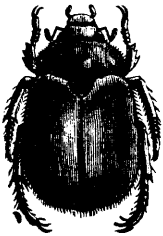


Fig. 9.

This insect appears late in May and during the month of June. It is distributed over a very wide area, embracing most of the northern United States and Canada, and although seldom very abundant, it is rarely that a season passes without more or less of them being seen. During the day they are inactive and may be found clinging to the under side of the leaves of trees, often drawing together two or three leaves—which they hold with their sharp claws—for the purpose of concealing themselves. At dusk they issue from their hiding places and fly about with a buzzing sound among the branches of trees, the tender leaves of which they devour; the Pear tree, the Oak, Poplar, Hickory, Silver Abele and Sweet Gum all suffer more or less from their attacks. Like the May Bug, this beautiful creature is often attracted by light, and flies into open windows on summer evenings, dashing in a bewildered sort of way against everything it meets with, to the great alarm of nervous inmates. In some seasons they occur in considerable abundance, and may then be readily captured by shaking the trees on which they are lodged in the day-time, when they do not attempt to fly, but fall at once to the ground.