

PRACTICAL AND POPULAR ENTOMOLOGY.—No. 9.

THE BUFFALO CARPET BEETLE,

(Anthrenus scrophulariae, L.)

BY JAMES FLETCHER, OTTAWA.

This destructive enemy of the housekeeper is evidently rapidly widening the area in Canada within which it occurs as a household pest. Strange

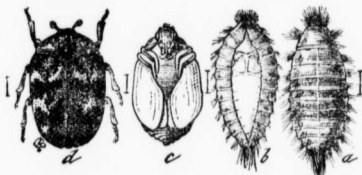


Fig. 19.

to say, the species has been found abundantly on flowers out of doors in some localities where it has never been noticed inside houses. Twenty-five years ago many specimens were sent to me by a collector from Fort Mc-

Leod, N.-W. T., and specimens are found in entomological collections in all parts of the Dominion.

The Buffalo Carpet Beetle, however, has proved destructive to woolen goods and furs only in certain districts, as in Western Ontario, the Eastern Townships of Quebec, and the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, every year fresh localities are added to those where it has assumed the troublesome habit of injuring wearing apparel, carpets, etc.; and demands for remedies are very frequent during the spring months, when the prettily marked beetles are found in windows of houses or on garden flowers. The life-history is briefly as follows:

Winter may be passed either as larva, pupa or perfect beetle; when out of doors, it is probably, as a rule, in the larval form, although I have found a perfect beetle in April in the folds of an old sack hanging on an apple tree. The beetles, which are black, marked across the back with three indistinct white bands and with a bright scarlet irregular stripe down the middle, are about $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch long and oval in shape. They are oftenest noticed in spring, when they sometimes swarm in the flowers of tulips, particularly those of red and yellow colours, and upon some kinds of Spiræas. At this time of the year they frequently fly into houses, where eggs are laid and the larvæ hatch in a few days. The larva is black and oval in shape, covered with short, stiff bristles, with longer tufts of bristles in front and behind. It is rather active, crawling with short, jerky movements. The

September, 1905.