

is still increased by three simple eyes, or ocelli, situated on the upper surface of the head. From the front part of the head project two short tapering antennae. The mouth occupies the front surface of the head, and is a most formidable structure. The upper lip is broad and conceals very powerful toothed organs, called mandibles; the other organs of the mouth are also armed with strong teeth which enable the creature to satisfy its carnivorous desires. The most remarkable portion of the mouth, however, is the lower lip, a large, flat, lobed organ, closing the mouth from the under side, and which may be projected forward to a comparatively great distance when attacking other insects.

The thorax, or middle portion of the body, is three or four times as long as the head, and very much greater in diameter. It resembles the head in colour, being of a medium chocolate shade, and is sparsely clothed with very short hairs of the same hue.

The abdomen, or posterior part of *L. trimaculata* tapers very gradually to the end, and is much smaller than the thorax in diameter, but more than twice its length. The colour is slightly paler, and is relieved by a line of yellowish blotches along each side, which gradually becomes smaller in size toward the end of the body. The upper surface is arched, while the under is flattened.

The legs are six in number, and are attached three to each side of the lower surface of the thorax.

The wings, which are four in number, are attached two to each side of the upper part of the thorax, and are about one and a quarter inches long, and three-eighths to nearly half an inch in breadth; the front ones being slightly the narrowest. The substance of the wings is a very delicate network covered by a thin transparent membrane, having a shining surface. From the place of attachment of each wing, there proceeds a narrow elongated patch of a deep brown colour, while from about the middle of the wings there is a large irregular patch of the same colour, which extends completely across. The structure of the wings combines great strength with lightness, thereby enabling the insect to fly with very great rapidity. Their shining surface, transparency and brilliant

colouring in this and other members of the same order, combine to give them a beautiful appearance when flying in the bright sunshine, and evidently suggested the popular names given to them by the French and Germans.

There are several other members of the same group which are more or less common in various parts of the country.

Libellula quadrimaculata, the four-spotted Dragon fly, (Fig. 44.) is seen on the wing in June, flying through dry pine woods far from any standing water.

Another very common Dragon-fly is the ruby Dragon-fly *Diplax rubicundula*, which is yellowish red.

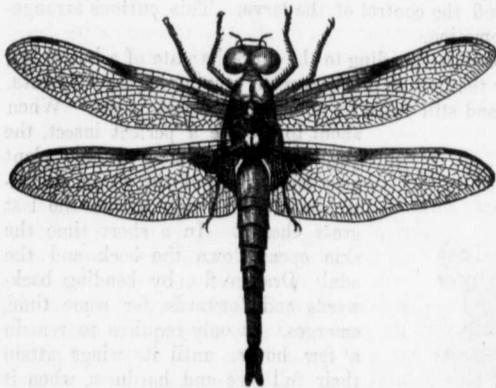


Fig. 44.



Fig. 45.

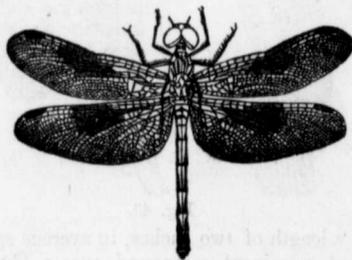


Fig. 46.



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