

FIG. 38.



the reader is referred to the paper already spoken of by Mr. Reed, in the report of last year.

Doubtless this insect would soon become very much more numerous and destructive than it is were it not kept in check by parasites which prey upon it in the larva state. We have repeatedly reared small ichneumon flies from the caterpillars of this moth, and hope by another

year to be able to give some interesting details regarding their history.

Besides the moths already referred to we have found another species of geometer, and another leaf roller, the latter particularly destructive to the gooseberry, but we have not been able to work out their life history sufficiently full to present them in this report. We hope to give some information relating to these after we have watched them through another season.

No. 9. THE FOUR STRIPED PLANT BUG. (*Capsus* [*Phytocoris*] *quadrivittatus*, Say.)

In the first annual report on the noxious insects of the State of Illinois, recently published by the new State Entomologist, Dr. W. Le Baron, we find this insect referred to as injurious to the currant. We have also seen it on currant bushes here, but never in numbers sufficient to do much damage, but as we have it common enough with us, and have seen it almost entirely destroy patches of mint and other plants, we have no doubt that should it acquire a strong liking for the foliage of the currant, that it would soon make its presence apparent. It is a true bug, belonging to the order Heteroptera, and family of Capsidae. We quote the following from Dr. Le Baron's excellent report:

"Upon going into my garden on the morning of the 7th of June, my attention was arrested by the blighted appearance of the leaves on some of the currant bushes. Upon examining them, they were found to be more or less densely sprinkled with little, dried, somewhat square or angulated spots, not much larger than pin-heads. Some of the leaves were completely withered, and a number of parsnips which had been left for seed were found still more severely affected, some whole branches and their leaves being as dead and brown as if they had been severed from the plant for a week. I examined the plants carefully, and could find no adequate cause for the mischief, and I was inclined to think either it was some kind of blight or that if any insects had been damaging them they had run their course and disappeared. I saw on most of the bushes a small number of the pretty black and yellow hemipterous insect whose name is placed at the head of this article, but they did not seem to be in sufficient numbers to account for the evil. I observed them, however, puncturing the leaves; and upon referring to the *American Entomologist*, I found, on page 246 of the first volume, a notice of these same insects having been sent to the editor, by Mr. M. B. Bateman, of Painsville, Ohio, with the statement that they were found injurious to the currant bushes, and various kinds of shrubs."

"This is an interesting insect, by adding another to the comparatively small list of noxious insects belonging to the order of Heteroptera. This list includes the chinch bug (*Micropus leucopterus*), the brown squash-bug (*Coreus tristis*), the large grey plant-bug (*Brochimena annulata*) and the lined plant-bug (*Capsus linearis*.) The last species, also known as the tarnished plant-bug, is one of our most pernicious insects, and belongs to the same genus as that now under consideration. All these insects do their damage by puncturing the leaves or stems of the plants, and wilting them by the abstraction of their sap."

This insect is about three tenths of an inch long, yellow, with four black stripes on their wing covers. The females are furnished with a blackish ovipositor, which is concealed under the abdomen when not in use. The sexes are easily distinguished, the females being known by their swollen abdomen, which when opened, according to the statements of Mr. Le Baron, are found to contain from 15 to 24 oblong subcylindrical flask-shaped eggs, pale, with white tips. How and where these eggs are deposited has not yet been ascertained. These insects are very active especially during the hotter parts of the day and instantly take to flight when alarmed. In the early morning when the air is chilly they may be easily captured by jarring or brushing them off into a pail or pan partly filled with water which will prevent them from rising again.

No. 10.

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