

of this family have the power of raising blisters when applied to the skin, a power which they retain even when dead and perfectly dry.

According to Dr. Harris, four of our native Cantharides have been thus successfully employed, and are found to be as powerful in their effects as the imported species.

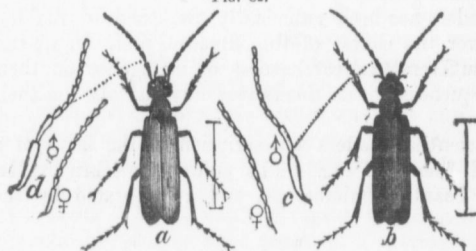
THE STRIPED BLISTER BEETLE (*Epicauta vittata*, Fabr.)—Fig. 81 is of a dull tawny yellow above, with two black spots on the head, and two black stripes on the thorax or throat, while the wing cases have two or three black stripes. The head is tolerably broad and heart-shaped, and is fastened to the thorax by a very narrow neck; the antennæ are long and tapering, the thorax is narrower than the wing cases. These latter are usually long and narrow, and are very soft and flexible. The legs are long and slender. The body is soft, and emits when handled, a yellowish fluid from the joints, which gives a disagreeable smell. When alarmed the insect feigns death. The under side of the body and legs are black, covered with a greyish down. It is one of the insects to which the production of the *potato rot* has been ascribed. Mr. Riley states that, in Missouri, this and other blister beetles were more numerous and injurious in 1868 than the dreaded Colorado potato beetle. He also stated that a gentleman living in Illinois discovered that this striped blister beetle eats all other potato tops in preference to Peach Blows.



4. THE ASH GREY BLISTER BEETLE, (*Epicauta cinerea*, Fabr.)

Same order and family as preceding.

THE ASH GREY BLISTER BEETLE.—Fig. 82, *a* is far more common in Canada. Its body is covered with a very short ash grey down. Its general appearance and history is similar to that of the striped blister beetle.



Colours—*a* Ash Grey. *b* Black.

5. THE BLACK BLISTER BEETLE, (*Epicauta atrata*, Fabr.) is totally black, and is about half an inch in length. It may be found very plentiful in the month of August on the potato vines, and on the leaves and blossom of the golden rods (*Solidago*.) Dr. Harris states that its ravages have often excited alarm.

Fig. 82, *b* gives a very good idea of the insect, although, in fact, the figure is that of *Epicauta murina*, a similar species, but not found in Ontario.

We are afraid that, on the whole, these Blister-beetles must be regarded and dealt with as enemies, although sometimes it may suit their purpose to feast upon the Colorado Beetle, and thus endeavour to earn the character of beneficial insects. These beetles may be knocked off the vines into a broad pan or pail of water, and destroyed, or driven into a windrow of hay or straw, and burnt; this latter plan Mr. Riley suggests as being the most practical and efficient remedy. As these insects are rather late in appearing, it would follow that the earlier planted potatoes would escape the best.



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