

the larva; and, being called away from home just at this time, I found on my return that the larva had gone into chrysalis, and in a few days afterwards, the perfect beetle emerged, and proved to be a very light-coloured specimen of *Mysia 15 punctata* Oliv. (Fig. 35). This beetle, as may be seen from the engraving, varies very much in its perfect form, so

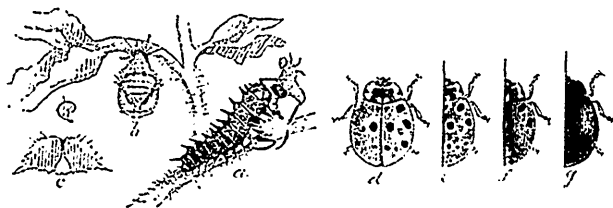


FIG. 35.

much so, indeed, that a careless or unskilled observer would never imagine that these four insects belonged to one and the same species.

*PERILLUS CIRCUMCINCTUS*, Say.

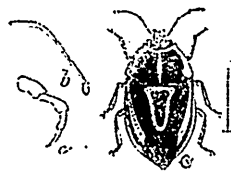


FIG. 36.

This insect (Fig. 36) belongs to the *Heteroptera Hemiptera*, or true Bug family. It was brought to me by a friend, who had detected it in the act of killing a Colorado Beetle larva, by piercing the soft body of the larva with its long rostrum or beak.

I placed this insect also in my glass-covered box, and watched its operations, and mode of attack. It moved very quietly, and attacked the larva with a sudden dart of its sharp-pointed beak. The larva, of course, struggled with all its power, yet it never seemed at all to loosen the hold of the bug, which rather astonished me, for I am at a loss to see what enables the beak to be retained so firmly; for, as far as I can ascertain, the beak is tolerably smooth, and easy of withdrawal if the bug is willing. Yet, when I attempted to take the larva off the beak, I had to use some slight degree of force. The bug, moreover, has a curious fashion of planting himself squarely and firmly on his feet, with the beak raised nearly horizontal, and the victim poised, or spitted on it, and writhing about quite clear of the ground.

I had the curiosity to weigh the bug, and also a larva which I saw it attacking, and the larva was very nearly as heavy as the bug, and yet it seemed no exertion to the bug to raise its victim on the point of its beak, and hold it suspended there while it sucked out the contents of the body.

Whether the close confinement of the box was not calculated to pro-