

A NEW CLOTHES BEETLE.

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One of the most interesting studies of the scientific entomologist—more interesting because of its economic importance—relates to variation of habits of insects, consequent upon variation in their environment. The carpet beetle, *Anthrenus scrophulariæ* Linn., feeds on flowers in its native Europe. In the new atmosphere of America, it feeds and thrives upon carpets, shawls and other woollen goods. The apple maggot, *Trypeta pomonella*, feeds upon our wild haw and other wild fruits. Civilization exterminates its old-time aliment; and it betakes itself to our apples, cherries and plums. The curculio, apple-tree borers, bark lice, etc., are other illustrations of the same truth.

In the past season I have discovered another illustration in the *Lasioderma serricorne* Fab. This insect belongs to the family *Ptinidæ*, a small family of very small insects. Very few of the insects of this family are noxious; the two best known of which are, the apple-tree twig bore, *Amphicerus bicaudatus* Say., which bores in the mature state in the twigs of the apple, and *Linnoxylon basilare* Say, which attacks the hickory and grape. The insect in question, *Lasioderma serricorne* Fab., has been found to attack plush furniture. The larvæ, in this case, do the mischief; they perforate the plush, making it like a sieve. I know of several pieces of uphoistered furniture utterly ruined by these minute larvæ.

The beetle is light-brown in color. There is little variation in the color, except that the eyes and tips of the elytra are black. The wing-covers appear a little lighter, because of a covering of light hairs, which are more dense on the elytra than on the thorax and head. The thorax bends down, so that, as we look from above, we can not see the head. The serrate antennæ, which give its name to the beetle, are also bent under the head, so as to rarely show. The beetle is very small, hardly more than 2 m.m. long. The elytra are non-striated. The first two joints of the antennæ are small. They then increase to the sixth, and then decrease to the end. The tenth, or last joint, is rounded. The grubs are short, curled and hairy. They are two m.m. long and one thick. The color is white, and the hairs nearly white. These latter have a slightly yellowish tinge. The six thoracic legs are tipped with black. The upper part of the head shows four yellowish-brown lines. The upper ones are