

cocoons may be looked for, and removed in time to check their further increase. In the caterpillar state they are not of dainty appetite, and, while partial to the apple, will eat other foliage as well; were it not so, we should soon hear more of their destructive effects. We have taken them feeding on cherry, plum, maple, willow, lilac, black and red currant, and hazel, and they are said to attack also the hickory, birch, elm, honey locust, barberry, hawthorn, and elder.

The natural increase of this insect being so great, a wise provision has been made to keep it within bounds. Besides enemies which attack the egg, and young larva, there are several parasites, which live within the body of the caterpillar and destroy it before reaching maturity; and in this way, their numbers, which would otherwise soon be alarming, are kept within moderate limits.

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## INSECTS OF THE NORTHERN PARTS OF BRITISH AMERICA.

COMPILED BY THE EDITOR.

*From Kirby's Fauna Boreali-Americana: Insecta.*

(Continued from page 137.)

[103.] 145. OICEOPTOMA [SILPHA] AMERICANUM Linn.—Length of body  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lines; breadth 7 lines. Taken in Nova Scotia by Capt. Hall.

Body very much depressed, thickly punctured with a hair issuing from each puncture; on the under-side black. Head with a round impression between the eyes: prothorax pale-yellow with a subquadrangular sublobate black spot in the disk; punctures of the prothorax very thick, those of the discoidal spot resembling scratches: elytra brown-black, rather silky; with two longitudinal, undulated, obsolete ridges that do not reach the apex; their surface is covered with irregular elevations, and near the suture is a series of punctiform impressions; epipleura very wide with its horizontal portion resplendent with a lustre between bronze and gold, vertical part, or inner margin, yellow; the suture of the elytra terminates in a minute point. Olivier says there are three ridges on the elytra, but only two are discernible in the specimen here described. It is singular that no author has noticed the brilliant side-covers of the elytra. [Synonymous with *S. peltata* Catesby. Common in Canada: north shore of Lake Superior (Agassiz).]