ON PHYSONOTA UNIPUNCTATA Say, ANL' ITS SUPPOSED VARIETIES.

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As considerable doubt appears to exist with regard to the three species or races of *Physonota* described by Say, Randall, and Walsh and Riley, and as I had in former years found a species of this genus to be rather common in the vicinity of Montreal, I endeavored during the past season to find it again, and, as far as my opportunities would permit, work up its life history.

Early in May I made a careful search in the locality where I had previously found it, but at this date its food plant had not yet appeared above ground. I tried again in June, the time at which I had formerly taken the first brood. The food plant, *Helianthus decapetalus*, was now about two feet high, but the leaves were untouched, and to my great disappointment no beetles were found, as I particularly wished to ascertain the color of the early summer brood, as those which I had formerly taken at this season were of a bright gold color, quite different from those taken later in the year. This difference of color in the broods appears to me to point to the conclusion that *Physonota* may possess the power of assuming different tints, as is the case with some other species of the family. On August 15th I found a colony of the beetles on the same plant, now in full flower. The beetles were all in the autumnal dress, black and white, with testaceous margin. The species is undoubtedly that described by Walsh and Riley as *P. quinquepunctata*, which is, I think, a synonym of *helianthi* Randall. This author describes it as having the "elytra blackish, irregularly spotted with white, with a testaceous margin, losing its color after death, becoming nearly pale testaceous, except the three black spots on the thorax." This agrees very well with the species found by me, except that they have a double spot close to the anterior margin of the thorax, but as this fades soon after