

but both the primaries and secondaries are crossed by very broad, white bands, as in *L. arthemis*. It is, however, larger than any specimens of *Arthemis* I have ever seen, and exceeds the majority of *L. ursula* in size. It has the white spots in the cell of the primaries which appear in some female specimens of *L. Weidemeyeri*. It is altogether a queer beast combining the characteristics of three of our species. No doubt they all sprang from a common ancestry, and this specimen reveals the force of atavism.

EXOCHILUM MUNDUM, SAY, ATTACKING THE FALL WEB-WORM.

BY A. H. KIRKLAND, ASSISTANT IN THE AMHERST, MASS., INSECTARY.

One hot afternoon in the early part of August, 1893, while out collecting, I found a large web of the Fall Web-Worm (*Hyphantria cunea*, Drury), on a young apple tree. Reaching up to cut off the twigs to which the web was attached, my attention was attracted by an unusual disturbance among the inmates of the web. Closer inspection revealed the fact that a medium-sized Ichneumon fly had intruded within the family circle, and was proving herself a most unwelcome visitor. Tearing into the web with her feet she would force her way along until she arrived under the skeletonized leaves upon which the larvæ were resting and through which they were plainly visible. When her presence was noticed by the larvæ lying on a large leaf nearest the intruder, they raised their heads and swung them rapidly from side to side, and at the same time each one emitted a drop of greenish fluid from its mouth. Meanwhile the Ichneumonid had crept up under the leaf, and bending the posterior segments of her abdomen until the partly exerted ovipositor extended forward between the feet and beyond the head, she poised herself for a moment as if to take aim, then with lightning rapidity she darted her abdomen and ovipositor still farther forward and struck through the leaf into the body of a larva, which at once commenced to writhe and twist as if in great pain. I watched this operation continue for about half an hour and did not observe the Ichneumonid sting any larva more than three or four times, usually but once.

Upon attempting its capture it broke out of the web and flew off. Soon, however, it returned, and after circling about for a short time as if to select a favorable place for renewing operations, it alighted and again forced an entrance into the web. This time my efforts were successful, and my capture, as kindly determined by Prof. Fernald, proved to be *Exochilum mundum*, Say. The larvæ that had been stung were brought to the Insectary for the purpose of obtaining more specimens of this interesting Ichneumonid.