

## ON ANISOPTERYX VERNATA AND POMETARIA.

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There has been some confusion lately in regard to the limits and synonymy of these two common species, partially due to Dr. Harris' unsatisfactory reference to them in his "Report on the Insects of Massachusetts," 1841, and to the inaccessibility of Prof. Peck's original description of *A. vernata*.

In the numerous notes on these species and references to them in recent publications, they are in nearly all cases confounded together or wrongly determined; and I have not found them correctly named in a single collection which I have examined.

I reprint the descriptive portion of Prof. Peck's excellent essay. He was only acquainted with *vernata* and makes no reference to any other species. Dr. Harris considered *pometaria* the true "canker worm," and *vernata* a variety; on what grounds I do not know, as the latter is much the commoner, and, I presume, the most destructive. The following description of *vernata* was published in the Massachusetts *Magazine*, vol. vii, Sept. and Oct., 1795, and reprinted in 1827 in the New England *Farmer*, vol. v.:

"*Phalaena vernata, geometra geticornis, alis cinereis, fascii tribus obscuris, fuscis, posticis immaculatis, femina aptera.* The wings are ash color with three obscure blackish transverse stripes, and a small dash of the same color at the tip; the under wings are of a uniform color and rather lighter than the ground color of the upper ones. The body of the female is nearly four lines in length, ash colored and marked on the back with a brown list extending from the thorax to the tail. In thirteen days the females deposit their eggs; these are placed in the crannies of the bark in the forks of small branches, and where there are spots of moss upon the smaller limbs; they seem most fond of insinuating themselves in the cavities between its leaves. For this purpose they are furnished with a tube through which the egg is passed. The egg is elliptic, one-thirtieth of an inch in length, of a pearl color with a yellowish cast. The larvæ when full grown are about 9 lines long. The head pale, marked on each side with two transverse blackish stripes, the