

The species is less highly coloured than *purpurifascia*, from which its larva separates it, and the slight differences in moth and larva remove it sufficiently from the other ally.

May 25th to 28th find the young larvæ hatching from the hibernated eggs. They enter the stem a few inches above the ground, and work down to the natural enlargement of the stalk that occurs in all plants, whether infested or not, just below the ground-level. At the same date the plant is attacked above by a *Micro*, in the petiole of the unrolling frond. Both often choose the same plant, though their combined efforts produce little retardation. A very limited gallery is made by *pterisii*, for the plant is inadequate for extended mining, the larva eats less, and is the most lethargic of any known. To the fourth moult the larva shows no individuality, except that it belongs to the group having the white dorsal line alone continuous and unbroken. Stage V: Colour dull wine-red, lines white, dorsal continuous. No accessory tubercle IVa, the true IV low down in the generalized Noctuid position. All tubercles small and ill-defined. Head wider than shield. Stage VI: Head 2.1 mm. wide, still narrower than shield, and shield small. Colour is much faded. Tubercles same as before, neither IV nor V on joint ten bear setæ. Stage VII: Head 2.4 mm. wide, normal. All lines and colours lost in a soiled translucence. The larva now typifies a primitive, generalized form of that section which has in its early stages the continuous dorsal line, not acquiring any special accessory and protecting tubercle plate at the spiracle on joint ten. Of its allies, *purpurifascia* has acquired a large plate here, and *Harrisii* a very minute one. All tubercles weak, though black marked; normal. Length, 37 mm. Pupation occurs in the last days of July, the plant being deserted, and the moths come forth August 21st to 31st.

Probably no other species suffers to quite such an extent from regular yearly parasitism. Though it is so common and is represented in most collections, the acquisition of a good series is no easy matter. The plant is obdurate for breed-cage experiments, and maturity in the field finds them stung, and doubly stung. So fierce is this struggle and so numerous are the persecutors that it seems natural selection could never play much importance in any unbroken line; nor is it seen how such mutants as might arise were able to perpetuate a new character. But even the last few centuries must have surrounded our Lepidoptera with greatly changed conditions, and we are little able to speculate conclusively.