

Among the Arctians which have been sent in for examination, there are nine specimens which we cannot satisfactorily place, and it may be that these may prove to be undescribed. It is not advisable, we think, to describe new species of this genus from a few specimens, even if these seem to be fairly constant. When any of these species which are not now very well known, come to be reared in numbers from the same batch of eggs, doubtless many surprises will be experienced, and characters which in the past have been regarded as important by some students, may prove to be anything but constant. In a genus the species of which show such a wide range of variation, great care should be exercised in arriving at conclusions regarding new forms which may appear, and it will only be when every species has been carefully studied from the egg that definite knowledge can be had regarding the insects which constitute this interesting genus of the Arctiidae.

We have been endeavouring to get some idea of the distribution of the different species, and such results as we have obtained are given below, as well as the dates of appearance of the perfect insects.

1. VIRGO.—This species is well known as a moth, and common in many parts of Canada, particularly so in Manitoba and east of that Province. The mature larva is a beautiful creature, and, as might be expected, is one of the largest of the genus. It is 55 mm. in length at rest, 60 mm. when extended, and 8.5 mm. at widest part. In colour it is a deep velvety black, with bunches of stout black barbed bristles from the tubercles on the dorsum, and reddish bristles from the tubercles on the lower portion of sides and on venter. Some specimens are without any markings on the skin, but others have a striking dorsal stripe, the colour varying—bright yellow, dirty whitish, or orange-yellow. This larva also varies as to the colour of the tubercles. In three specimens the writer bred, tubercle i. was black, ii. black (in one specimen this afterwards changed to reddish), iii. black in two specimens, reddish in one, iv., v., vi., vii. and viii. also varying in colour. (CAN. ENT., Vol. XXXIV., p. 23.) Abdominal feet brownish-red. Specimens of the larvæ, collected at Rosthern, Sask., by Mr. T. N. Willing, and given to Dr. Fletcher, had all the tubercles of a bright reddish colour, the bristles being all foxy red, or smoky, and the skin of some specimens mottled with gray. Some examples had a creamy yellow stripe down the dorsum, and others had this stripe broken up into a double spot on each segment.