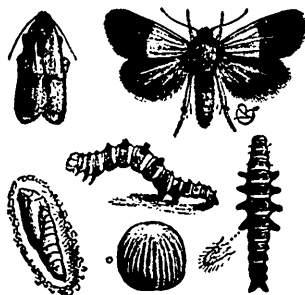


The insects which meet their death in this fluid are numerous and of all orders. Ants are the principal victims, and the acidulous properties which their decomposing bodies give to the liquid doubtless render it all the more potent as a solvent. Scarcely any other Hymenoptera are found in the rotting mass, and it is an interesting fact that Dr. Mellichamp never found the little nectar-loving bee or other Mellifera about the plants. On one occasion only have I found in the pitcher the recognizable remains of a *Bombus*, and on one occasion only has he found the honey-bee captured. Species belonging to all the other orders are captured, and among the larger species that I have most commonly met with, which, from the toughness of their chitinous integument, resist disorganization and remain recognizable, may be mentioned *Asaphes memnonius* and *Euryomia melancholica* among Coleoptera, *Pentatoma lugens* and *Orsilochus variabilis*, var. *complicatus* among Heteroptera; while katydids, locusts, crickets, cockroaches, flies, moths, and even butterflies, and some Arachidna and Myriapoda, in a more or less irre recognizable condition, frequently help to swell the unsavory mass.

But while these insects are decoyed and macerated in order, as we may naturally infer, to help support the destroyer, there are, nevertheless, two species which are proof against its siren influences and which, in turn, oblige it either directly or indirectly to support them.

The first is *Xanthoptera semicrocea* Guen., a little glossy moth, which may be popularly called the Sarracenia moth. It is strikingly marked

Fig. 25.



XANTHOPTERA SEMICROCEA.—a, egg, enlarged, the natural size indicated at side; b, c, larva, back and side views; d, chrysalis; e, moth, normal form, with wings expanded; f, pale variety, with wings closed.

with gray-black and straw-yellow, the colors being sharply separated across the shoulders and the middle of the front wings. This little moth walks with perfect impunity over the inner surface of the pitcher, which proves so treacherous to so many other insects. It is frequently found in pairs within the pitchers soon after these open, in the early part of the season or about the end of April. The female lays her eggs singly, near the mouth of the pitcher, and the young larva, from the moment of hatching, spins for itself a carpet of silk, and very soon closes up the mouth by drawing the rims together and covering them with a delicate, gossamer-like web, which effectually debars all small outside intruders. It then frets the leaf