

Mr. Walsh says that this insect has been a severe pest for a great number of years in some of the more eastern States, especially in New York and Pennsylvania. It is also common in some portions of Missouri. Mr. J. G. Bowles, of Quebec, says that he has found it common on the black currant, as well as on the red currant and gooseberry.

The same remedy which was recommended for the saw-fly larvæ, viz., hellebore, may be used with advantage here also, and in the same manner. Hand-picking can be more easily followed out with this species than with some others. The habit the larva has of letting itself down from the bush with a silken thread and remaining suspended, may be turned to practical account as an aid to their capture; for, if after tapping the bush a forked stick or some similar instrument is passed under it, all the hanging threads may be caught, and the larvæ thus drawn out in groups and crushed with the foot. By repeating this operation frequently the bushes may in a short time be pretty well cleaned. We are not aware of any parasites having been found attacking this species.

#### No. 4. THE SPINOUS CURRANT CATERPILLAR. (*Grapta prognæ*, Cram.)

Dr. Asa Fitch, State Entomologist of New York, first refers to this insect as attacking the currant, in his third report. For several years past we have taken it on both the gooseberry and currant, and also on the wild gooseberry bushes. Mr. Bowles has also found it in Quebec, feeding on red currant; and in the recent report on the noxious insects of Illinois by Dr. W. Le Baron, State Entomologist it is mentioned as being troublesome there, and in one section had done considerable mischief by stripping the leaves from the currant bushes. Although the insect is very widely distributed on this continent, we do not apprehend that it will ever cause any very serious trouble; still it is well that all should be familiar with its history, so that, should it increase unexpectedly, our readers may be enabled to recognise it.

Fig. 33.



The perfect insect is a butterfly, and a very handsome one too. It is represented in fig. 33: The pair of wings which are attached to the body show the markings of the upper surface, and the detached pair those of the under surface. Its fore wings are dull reddish orange, with the outer edge widely bordered with dark brown, and within there are many spots of brown and black. The hind wings are dark brown, tinged with red behind shading into reddish towards the front. The under surface of both wings is dark brownish, traversed by many greyish lines and streaks, and on the fore wings is a very wide band towards the

outer edge of a paler colour. The wings are very irregular in outline, with curious notches and prominences. This butterfly passes the winter in the perfect or winged state, hiding in some sheltered nook, where it remains torpid during the cold of winter, and awakes to life again with the genial warmth of spring. They may be found very early in the season, skipping about with their peculiar jerky flight about the openings in woods, basking now and then on the sunny side of a tree, or sipping the sweet juice exuding from a freshly cut stump. When its wings are spread it measures from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. There are probably two broods of this insect during the season. Mr. Bowles has taken the larva at Quebec full grown on the 28th of June, while we have taken them in the same stage from the 26th of July to early in August. It is likely that Mr. Bowles' specimens belonged to the first brood, and ours to the second. The colour of the caterpillar varies from light brownish to dull greenish yellow, with many longitudinal lines of black, whitish and yellow, more or less distinct. It is about an inch or a little more in length, and its body is thickly set with branching spines, varying in colour from yellow to orange and dark brown, many of the branches being tipped with black.

When full grown it seeks some secluded spot in which to change to chrysalis, sometimes the under side of a leaf, or twig is selected, and here after spinning on the surface a small web of silk, it hooks its hind legs in the fibres and suspends itself head downwards. In this state it remains for a day or two, gradually contracting in length, until finally the caterpillar skin is shed, revealing a rugged looking brown chrysalis, prettily ornamented with silvery spots. With regard to the duration of the chrysalis state, Dr. Harris places it at from eleven to sixteen days, while Dr. Le Baron has had them appear in seven days, very probably the heat of

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