

the part affected, but I have since experienced no inclination to cultivate a close acquaintance with this apparently innocent, but really formidable caterpillar.

After the last larval moult, as most Lepidopterists are aware, the larva of *Lagoa opercularis* presents an entirely different appearance from the one above described. The color is no longer white, but a dark gray, with fulvous or ochreous shadings on the dorsum and sides; the long hairs are replaced by a short and dense coating, resembling long-piled velvet, in which the stinging spines are more concealed than they were under the previous hairy coat. This larva is anomalous in one respect. It has, in addition to the four pairs of well-developed abdominal prolegs, two pairs of tubercles on joints 5 and 10, which are not only used as locomotive organs, but are actually provided with the rudiments of hooks.

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## THE PREPARATORY STAGES OF LYCAENA COMYNTAS.

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Last year I observed a female *comyntas* depositing eggs upon *Desmodium Marilandicum* Gray, a common and troublesome weed in this region, called "shoestring" by the country people, from its toughness of stem, and bearing a sticking burr in the fall. On 9th July, 1876, I set a female in a bag over a stem of this plant, and several eggs were laid on the tender terminal leaves. Mr. Mead noticed that this butterfly laid also on red clover, and a number of eggs were obtained by the same process, on the 13th July, deposited on the young leaves and on the flowrets of the head. On the 12th, the eggs on *Desmodium* hatched; 15th, one larva passed 1st moult; 18th, the 2nd moult; 21st, the 3rd moult; on or about 26th, the 4th moult; made chrysalis 31st, and the butterfly emerged August 9th. I raised but one of this brood to maturity, but ten on the clover. The single larva was green in all its stages, and its chrysalis was green, but the larvæ on clover were reddish or red throughout, and their chrysalids were sordid white. Whether this difference was owing to the food plants further experiment must determine. The larvæ at first were such minute