

## NATURE STUDY No. XXIX.

## WOOLLY-BEAR CATERpillARS.

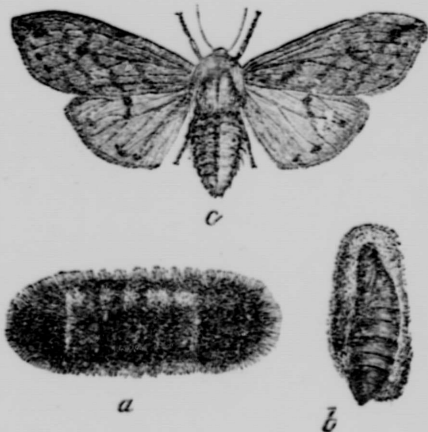
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Teachers engaged in Nature Study are often at a loss to decide what forms of life around them will serve best to attract and hold the attention of their pupils.

On account of their abundance, and the ease with which they can be collected, insects are every day being more and more used as Nature Study object lessons. This article is presented simply to draw the attention of teachers engaged in Nature Study work to a certain group of insects, the Woolly-bears, three kinds of which are to be found commonly almost everywhere in Canada. When specimens have been collected, the teacher should present them to the class in such a way as to arouse the interest of the pupils, and thus develop independent thought and investigation. The little that the child sees and thinks out for itself, is of far more educative value than the great deal that the teacher gives out in the course of one or even many lessons.

"Woolly-bears" is the popular name given to the hairy caterpillars of the moths known as Arctians. All of these caterpillars are clothed with dense clusters of hairs, which as a rule are conspicuously coloured. In some kinds these hairs are stiff and even, while in others they are slender and of varying lengths. Most arctian caterpillars are general feeders, living upon the foliage of almost any herbaceous plant; but a few kinds occasionally feed on the leaves of shrubs and trees. The moths are fairly large and, on account of their beauty, are favourites with collectors.

**THE HEDGEHOG CATERPILLAR.**—In the fall of the year, or in early spring, everyone must have seen the caterpillars of the Isabella Tiger moth, *Isia isabella*, S. & A. This Woolly-bear which is called the Hedgehog Caterpillar is particularly noticeable in autumn, hurrying along road-side paths, sidewalks, railroad tracks, etc., as if on a most pressing errand. If we watch them for a little while, we shall soon see that there is a set purpose in their actions. Evidently they are not simply wandering around in search of food, because we see them pass by



Hedgehog caterpillar, pupa in cocoon, and moth.