

DESCRIPTION OF THE LARVA AND PUPA OF
AULAX NABALI.

BY THOMAS W. FULTS, SOUTH QUEBEC.

The tall White Lettuce, *Nabalus altissimus*, Hooker, is a striking and graceful plant. At Quebec it is found in glades and on the edges of woodland roads. Its wand-like stems rise sometimes to the height of six feet, and end in panicles of greenish-white or pale straw-coloured flowers. The stems are hollow, but have a lining or inner coat of white downy pith, which in the summer is sometimes found to be broken with discoloured warts. Late in the fall, when the stems of the plant have become indurated and the pith has dried up, the warts are found to have developed into galls of the size, shape and colour of grains of hemp. I have found them in the stems from about six inches above the ground up to a height of three feet or perhaps more. Sometimes they appear in clusters, sometimes in rows, and sometimes singly at intervals. The proper inhabitant of each of these galls is a footless, spindle-shaped grub, one-eighth of an inch long. In colour it is like white wax, with the mouth organs brown. It is more pointed at the head than at the other extremity. It lies curled round in the gall.

Towards spring the pupal change takes place. This change may be hastened by warmth; the specimens I have kept in my study are now (January 9th) passing through it. A week or two after the change the pupa is of compact form, white, waxen, with amber-coloured eyes. The head is small, the thorax large and convex, and the abdomen ovate and closely joined to the preceding part. The legs are drawn up by the sides of the thorax, and the tarsi are stretched backwards under the body. The antennæ (beautifully translucent) are turned under the head and extended between the tarsi, reaching nearly to the end of the abdomen.

The perfect insects were described by Dr. Brodie, of Toronto, in the 25th volume of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, p. 12. I copy his description for the benefit of those who may not have the volume at hand:

"♀.—Length, 2.50 xx. Antennæ 13-jointed; uniform brown; head and thorax black; abdomen shining brown, with a large anterior dorsal spot black; all the tibiæ, femora and tarsi brown, a little paler than the abdomen; wings ample, veins well-defined, hyaline, iridescent at certain angles."

"Abdomen of ♂ darker brown, and without the dark dorsal spot. From numerous specimens."