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## THE COLUMBINE BORER (*HYDRECIA PURPURIFASCIA*, G. & R.).

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In 1894, Mrs. J. J. Glessner, Littleton, N. H., called my attention to a "worm" which was feeding in the roots and stems of her columbines. It was not until July, 1895, however, that she succeeded in getting specimens of the "worm" for me. The "worm" proved to be a caterpillar which was unfamiliar to me, and in accordance with my usual practice in such cases, it was described and photographed. The photographs, giving dorsal and lateral views of the caterpillar, twice natural size, are reproduced on the plate.

The full-grown larva measured one and three-eighths inches in length. Its general colour is mars brown, much lighter on the venter of the first two thoracic and last four or five abdominal segments. The head is of a light russet colour, black about the eye-spots. Mandibles dark brown, black-tipped. Thoracic shield concolorous with the head on the dorsum, but merging into black on the sides and sometimes into a narrow black cephalic border; the shield is divided by a narrow whitish mesial line. Anal shield large, black, merging into brown mesially. The true legs are brownish-black, and the bases of the pro-legs are marked with blackish areas. Short light brown hairs arise from conspicuous, comparatively large blackish spots; the piliferous spots on the dorsum of the last two abdominal segments are considerably larger than the others. The spiracles are black. There is a continuous narrow white mesial stripe extending along the dorsum. A similar white stripe extends along the subdorsum on each side, but it is not continuous, being entirely obsolete on the first four abdominal segments, and sometimes on the last thoracic segment also. The discontinuance of these two white side stripes gives the larva a rather curious appearance, as the figures show.

One of the caterpillars, which was received in the latter part of July, 1895, pupated on or about August 8, and the adult insect (the beautiful moth shown twice natural size on the plate) emerged September 3, 1895.