

The larva or caterpillar of this insect, when fully grown, is larger than it is shown in the figure, being as thick as a man's little finger, and over three inches in length. It feeds on the leaves of both the Tomato and Potato plants. It varies so much in color that people often suppose that a number of different species of "worms" are attacking their plants. It is frequently of a bright green marked with white, and having along each side a series of seven oblique greenish-yellow stripes; again it may be found with its general color dark green, dark brown, blackish green, and other shades, even to deep black. On the last segment of the body there is a curved horn or tail. The accompanying wood-cut affords so satisfactory a representation of the three stages of the insect that it is unnecessary to enter into a minute detailed description.

The larva is found feeding during July and August. It often so closely resembles the foliage on which it reposes, the bands on its sides mimicking the ribs of the leaves, that it cannot always be detected; its presence, however, may usually be traced by the singularly marked cylindrical pellets of excrement on the ground and the stripped leaf-stalks of the plant. When fully grown the larva descends into the earth, and there makes a chamber for itself in which to change to its pupa state. Fortunately the insect is not a very common one, its numbers being kept in check by a small Ichneumon-fly; otherwise from its size and voracity it would prove most destructive. Very rarely are more than a few specimens seen in a tomato or potato patch. In the summer of 1878, however, as I recorded in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST (vol. x., p. 218), it was so abundant that a market-gardener who lives near me gathered four bushels of the caterpillars off an acre and a quarter of tomatoes in one day! That year some of the insects attained to the moth or imago state in October, but generally the pupa remains quiescent in the ground till the following season and the moth appears in June or July. I have now in my possession a living chrysalis of this insect that belonged to the abundant brood of 1878. It was given to me by Mr. David Smart, of Port Hope, who found it, with a large number of others, in his garden. He kept the chrysalids in a box of earth in his cellar all last year; no doubt the coolness prevented the development of the imago. He and I are now both watching with much interest for the appearance of the moths from our specimens, as two years in the pupa state is by no means a common occurrence. That the pupæ are still alive is shown by the readiness with which they move the segments of the abdomen when handled or