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## ENTOMOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS.

### *THE POPLAR DAGGER-MOTH*—*Acronycta lepusculina*, Gueneé.

BY THE EDITOR.

The caterpillar of this moth is often very destructive to poplar trees, and more especially to the foliage of the cottonwood tree in the west. It is, when full grown, an inch and a half or more in length, with a black

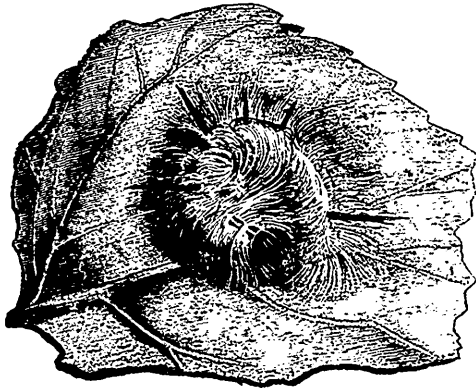


Fig. 22, after Riley.

head, and its body clothed with long, soft yellow hairs, from amongst which arise along the back five long pencils of black hairs. When at rest it curls itself up on the leaf as shown in figure 22.

When full grown the caterpillar spins a pale yellow cocoon of silk interwoven with its own hairs, hidden in some sheltered spot, and there changes to

a dark brown chrysalis, from which in due time the moth appears.

The perfect insect measures when its wings are expanded about an inch and three-quarters across, see figure 23. Its wings are gray varied with dark brown dots and spots and shadings. Near the hinder angle of the front wings is a rather conspicuous spot not very distinctly shown in the figure, resembling the Greek letter *psi* placed sidewise. There are two broods



Fig. 23, after Riley.

of this insect during the year; the moths of the first appear in June, deposit eggs which produce larvæ that reach their full growth, pass through