

## ON SOME OF OUR COMMON INSECTS.

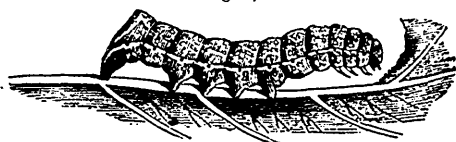
## 12. THE AMERICAN COPPER UNDERWING—

*Amphipyra pyramidoides*, Guen.

BY THE EDITOR.

This insect is a troublesome one in many parts of our province, and is yearly increasing. It first attracted attention by its depredations on the foliage of the vine, but now, with us, while it is still a plague in the vinery, it is more abundant on plum and apple trees, and is also common on the thorn. It has been known in popular language as "the pyramidal grape vine worm" on account of the larva having a pyramidal hump near the end of its body; also as "the green grape vine worm," in consequence of the larva being of a green colour, but since it is not by any means restricted to the grape, we prefer the common name placed at the head of this article—"the American copper underwing"—given to it because the hind wings of the moth are of a lustrous copper colour. A very similar moth, *Amphipyra pyramidea*, Linn., is common in Europe, the larva of which feeds on the oak, elm, poplar and other trees, and since this insect is known in England as "the copper underwing," we think the common name we have referred to, which was first suggested by Mr.

Fig. 3,



Riley, is a very appropriate one for our species.

The larva, of which a very good representation is given in figure 3, first attracts notice early in June, when it may be found about half grown and feeding vigorously; by the middle of the month it has usually attained its full size, when it measures from one and a quarter to one and a half inches in length. The head is rather small, flattened in front, and of a whitish green color, with the mandibles tipped with black. The body is of a delicate whitish green, a little darker on the sides, with a white stripe down the back, a little broken between the segments and somewhat widened behind. On each side, close to the under surface, there is a