

the grass and plantain leaves, seldom placing more than five eggs in one cluster. Shortly after hatching the larvæ ate the parenchyma of the blades of grass, leaving the veins untouched; after increasing somewhat in size they fed upon the plantain leaves. The first larva of this brood began spinning its cocoon on the evening of June 16; it became a chrysalis June 19, disclosing the imago June 28. The chrysalis could easily be seen through the thin cocoon. When this larva began spinning its cocoon the other larvæ of the same brood, hatched out at about the same time and reared under precisely similar conditions, were of all sizes from those only one-half grown to those nearly full grown. As they appeared to be costive, I supposed that it was caused by a lack of water; accordingly I wet a few leaves and fed them to the larvæ, shortly after which they were taken with a violent scouring, which so reduced them that all but one died; this one spun its cocoon and went on to chrysalis, but died before producing the imago.

On the 6th of July following I obtained another laying of eggs, and the larvæ from these showed the same variation in size as those of the first brood. When some of them became nearly full grown they were attacked with a disease which caused them in a short time to turn black; if handled after death the skin readily broke, showing the interior to be filled with a blackish liquid. As soon as this disease made its appearance I removed the healthy larvæ to new breeding-cages, but they all finally died of this disease.

On the 23rd of April, 1879, I obtained a larva of this species which spun its cocoon the next day, disclosing the imago May 20; the earliness of the date precludes the possibility of its having issued from the egg the same season. It was taken while feeding upon dandelion leaves; I have taken other larvæ of this species upon the leaves of burdock and plantain. Prof. G. H. French states\* that they also feed upon the leaves of the thistle and hollyhock, but I have never taken them upon either of these plants. I have seen caterpillars which did not differ materially from those of *precatonis* feeding upon cabbage leaves, and the *precatonis* larvæ in my breeding-cages fed readily upon these leaves. As there is so much difference in coming to maturity among the larvæ of the same brood, it is evident that no given number of broods are reared in one season by all of the members of this species; four broods in a season seem to be the maximum number, while the average number is probably three.

\* Seventh Report St. Ent. Ill., p. 229.