

that they are noted as causing in France, where, according to the old law, it was compulsory on proprietors to have the webs on the shoots cut off with shears and destroyed, in consequence of the ravages of the caterpillars (if left unchecked), ruining the apple leafage over an extent of miles of country."

7. THE MAGPIE MOTH OF THE GOOSEBERRY—*Abraxas grossulariata*, Stephens,

is another English insect that may be mentioned on account of its resemblance in its caterpillar state to our Geometer Currant and Gooseberry worm (*Abraxas ribearia*, Fitch), represented in the annexed wood-cut, which will almost serve for its English relative, though the moths are totally different in their markings.

Fig. 51.



1 and 2, Caterpillars; 3, chrysalis of *Abraxas ribearia*.

Fig 52.



Moth of *Abraxas ribearia*.

The English insect—the Magpie Moth—is thus described:—"The caterpillars of this Moth are not so injurious as those of the Gooseberry Sawfly, but they occasionally occur in sufficient numbers to strip the bushes of their leaves. They frequent the Gooseberry and the Black and Red Currant, and also the Common Sloe, or Blackthorn. The egg—one or more—is laid on the leaves towards the end of summer; the caterpillars hatch in September, and feed for a short time; and then either fall to the ground with the fall of the leaves in autumn, and remain sheltered amongst them for the winter, or they spin the edges of a leaf together, which they have previously fastened by threads to the bough, and inside this protection remain until the return of spring. When the new leafage unfolds, the caterpillars come out and feed till May or the beginning of June, when they change to chrysalids. The caterpillar is one of the kind known as "loopers," from the peculiar looped shape it draws itself up into when alarmed (see fig.); the head is black; body cream-coloured, with a reddish orange stripe along the sides; the whole of the second ring, and the under side of the third and fourth, and of the four nearest the tail, are also reddish-orange. A row of large irregular black spots runs along the middle of the back. When full fed it spins a light transparent cocoon attached to twigs, or palings, or in crevices of walls; and in this it changes to a chrysalis, yellow at first, but afterwards shining black, with orange-coloured rings.

"The Moth is very variable in appearance; commonly it has a black head, yellow body between the wings, with a large black spot in the middle; the abdomen also yellow,