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## NOTES ON SAMIA COLUMBIA, *S. I. Smith.*

See Frontispiece, Fig. 37.

BY G. J. BOWLES, QUEBEC.

This beautiful moth was discovered by Professor S. I. Smith, at Norway, Maine, and described by him in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. IX., March 1865. It is nearly allied to the well known *Samia Cecropia*, but differs therefrom in being slightly smaller, and in the colouration and markings, as well as in the form of the cocoon and appearance of the larva. It may, therefore, be regarded as a well established species. I have been so fortunate as to obtain a specimen at Quebec, and can therefore add this moth to our list of Canadian Bombycidæ.

The species is evidently rare in this vicinity. I have met with it only three times, and have not heard of its having been taken by any other Quebec collector. In August, 1864, I captured a full grown larva of this moth, crawling along a fence, in search of some place in which to make its cocoon. It closely resembled a Cecropia caterpillar in size and general appearance. Thinking it, therefore, to be a larva of that species, I did not take notes at the time: though on a close examination I could not quite reconcile the colour and arrangement of the tubercles with the description of *S. Cecropia* given by Morris. The principal difference (as far as I can remember), was in the number of red warts with which the larva was ornamented, *S. Columbia* possessing *more* than the other species. As Professor Smith has never seen a specimen, our knowledge of the early history of the moth must remain defective, until some happy bug-hunter discovers the caterpillar, and gives us a detailed account of its beauties. I may add that *S. Cecropia* has not yet been taken at Quebec, though it is found at Lotbiniere, about forty miles west of the city. The larva above mentioned duly spun its cocoon, which was at first of a whitish colour, but in a few days gradually turned to dark brown, and then was exactly similar to the cocoons I afterwards found. The moth died in the chrysalis state, owing, perhaps, to the presence of parasites.