

her eggs on the back of the caterpillar, usually a short distance behind the head, where they are cemented firmly by means of a peculiar secretion with which the insect is furnished. Three or four of these eggs are usually placed upon a single caterpillar, where, after a few days, they hatch, when the tiny worms eat their way through the skin into the interior of the body, where they feed upon the fatty matters, instinctively avoiding the vital organs. When the caterpillar is about full grown it dies, and from its body emerge these three or four full grown whitish grubs, which soon after their exit change to chrysalids. These are nearly one-fifth of an inch long, oval, smooth and of a dark brown color, from which in due time the perfect flies escape.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE NOCTUIDÆ OF CALIFORNIA.

Part IV.

BY AUG. R. GROTE, A. M.,

Director of the Museum, Buffalo Society Natural Sciences.

61. *Prodenia præfica* Grote.

Allied to the Eastern *lineatella*; a little larger, with broader wings. The hind wings are more obscure, in the female subfuscous. The markings are so nearly alike in the two that I do not find good differences. Nevertheless, the tone of the three Californian specimens is less bright, the whitish apical shade is less defined, and the discal point beneath on the secondaries is evident and distinct, whereas it is wanting in *lineatella*. The extra basal and subterminal fields show a purply shading in *præfica*. *Expanse* 36 m. m.

California, No. 5568, Mr. Hy. Edwards; Mendocino, June, Mr. Behrens.

62. *Himella furfurata* Grote, Proc. Acad. N. S., Phil., 1874, p. 204.

Sauzalito, Mr. Behrens, Oct., Nos. 182 and 223.

The Californian specimens are a little darker than my type, more distinctly marked, the palpi distinctly blackish outwardly.