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NOTES ON CANADIAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS *APANTESIS* (*ARCTIA*), WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE LARVÆ.

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This paper is not by any means intended to be a full treatment of the species of the genus *Apantesis*, occurring in Canada. There is so much yet to be learned about many of the forms that the preparation of such an article is still quite impossible. The intention, therefore, is merely to present the rather incomplete notes we have made at Ottawa, with the hope that they may be of some use to students who are, or who may become, interested in these insects, and also that it may be seen at a glance what work has been done on some of the species, as well as what is still lacking with regard to others. There is considerable doubt as to the validity of some of the species of this genus, and these doubts can only be dispelled by careful and extensive breeding from the egg, taking accurate notes of the larvæ (in their different stages), the pupæ, etc. Large series of many of the so-called species will have to be bred before definite knowledge can be acquired.

The larvæ of this genus, generally speaking, are much the same in appearance. They are usually blackish caterpillars, with spreading tufts of black or reddish bristles. Taking each species separately, they are not difficult to study, but when one begins to compare large series of closely related species, the task is not by any means so easy. Even among those species which have been most studied, we do not seem to have any constant characters whereby to separate the larvæ, and, in view of our limited knowledge of these creatures, a great amount of work is still to be done. As it should not be difficult to obtain most of the moths where they occur, it is to be hoped that local collectors will endeavour to secure eggs from captured females, and thus provide the means for a better knowledge of the earlier stages of these interesting insects.

In Canada there are, as far as we have been able to find out, at least 20 moths belonging to the genus *Apantesis*, and specimens of all of these