

## FERNDALE NOTES.

## CATERPILLARS ON THE RAMPAGE

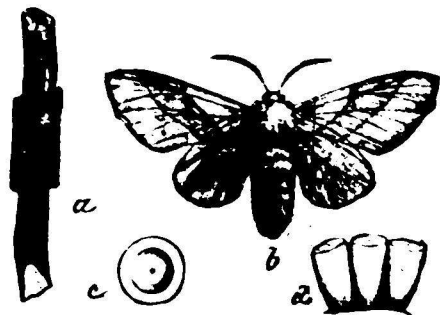
Cold news for me,  
This are my blossoms blasted in the bud,  
And caterpillars eat my leaves away

—H. W. Longfellow, 1838, p. 8, 1

## LÉPIDOPTERA.

## 1. FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR

One or other of the below mentioned *P. ang.* caterpillars have been troublesome in orchards about this season of the year, have defoliated many square miles of forest occasionally, and in their migration across railway tracks have often stopped trains on up grades on account of the grease-like effect of their smashed bodies on the rails. We give first the species which we have generally observed in northern Nova Scotia, *P. ang. p. 1*, the Forest Tent Caterpillar.



(a) the Moth, (b) the Eggs laid in a ring about a small twig, (c) a view of the egg magnified, (d) a view of a segment of the larva magnified.



Larva or Caterpillar on the twig.

**Life History:** Eggs between 200 and 300 in a firm ring around a small twig. In May the eggs hatch out and the larva feed on the young leaves. In a month and a half they are full grown, about an inch and a half in length, or more, of a pale blueish color, thickly spattered with black. Ten or eleven oval white spots form a row along its back. In the next species there is a continuous line of white instead. Pale yellow broken lines, with gray, are found on its sides. The hair is fox colored, mixed with coarser whitish hairs. It then spins a cocoon, whitish yellow in color. In about three weeks, or in July, the perfect moth comes out ready to deposit its eggs again. There are several insect enemies of this species: a tachinid fly, an ichneumon fly or two, some large beetles and a fungoid growth. The best preventative is a close search for and destruction of the small rings of eggs in winter or early spring.

## 2. AMERICAN TENT CATERPILLAR.

*Chimantopa Americana*, the American Tent Caterpillar, has a very similar life history.

This species differs from the other in the moth stage, by being of a redder brown, the two wing bands being whitish, instead of a dark brown, the space between the bands being also paler than in the other. The ring of eggs is more spindle

shaped, instead of being cylindrical. The eggs are also more conical than cylindrical as in the other species. The larva



(a) and (b) Larva. (c) Ring of Eggs. (d) Cocoon.

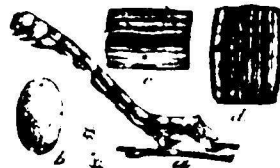
has a white, continuous line along the back, not a row of oval or diamond shaped white spots.

## 3. THE SPRING CANKER WORM

Here we give you representing the different phases and parts of *Abacoperis caryocarpae* the Spring Canker Worm.



Male M. (a) Female (b) Egg-laying female (c) Egg-laying female magnified at (d). A segment of its body is magnified at (e) and shows two rows of minute white spots on it. A portion of its antennae is shown magnified at (f).



Larva at (a). Eggs at (b) magnified. Side of a segment of the larva magnified at (c). Back of segment magnified at (d).

**Life History:** The eggs are generally laid in small masses, in crevices of the bark, by the wingless female, which has to walk up the trunk of the tree from the ground, where it passed its pupa state. The young caterpillar is of a dark olive green, or brown, with a black shining head, and a black plate on the next segment. They are variable in the color of the bands and mottlings when older. It is hatched in time for the young leaf in May. By the end of June they are an inch long, and if numerous, have destroyed much foliage. The caterpillars, having no feet under the middle of their bodies, move by a looping motion, and are therefore called "loopers," "yard sticks," "measuring" or "geometrid" caterpillars. They