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THE GREAT LEOPARD MOTH

(*ECPANTHERIA DEFLORATA*, FAB.).

By Arthur Gibson.

This insect, while southern in range, has been found in the larval state in autumn or early spring in western Ontario, but Canadian specimens of the moths are very rare in collections. In the annual report of the Entomological Society of Ontario for 1903, the Rev. Prof. Bethune published an article in which he recorded the finding of a single specimen of the larva of this moth at London, Ont., on May 6th, 1903. This was sent to the writer who made the following description of it, which was included in the above article:

Length 43 mm. General appearance—a stout, black larva, with stiff, shiny, jet-black bristles. Head 4 mm. wide, subquadrate, flattened in front, only slightly bilobed at vertex; black, shiny, excepting posterior upper part of cheek near segment 2, which is pale; suture and epistoma dull whitish; mandibles slightly reddish; hairs on face mostly black, reddish at tips. Body stout, dull black, with patches and streaks of velvety black on dorsum; distinctly yellowish in the incisures; lower lateral and ventral surface paler. Tubercles large, all black, excepting vi, vii and viii, which are a dark amber colour, each bearing a bunch of stiff, black, barbed bristles; from v, vi, vii and viii many of the bristles are tinged with dark red. Tubercles i, ii and iii are nearly the same size; iv elongate. Spiracles dull orange, anterior and close to, but above tubercle iv on abdominal segments. All the feet shiny brown tipped with black.

I was very glad indeed to have the opportunity of examining this caterpillar, as I had never before seen a living specimen. At the annual meeting of the above Society, held at Guelph, in October, 1906, Mr. J. B. Williams, one of the Toronto members of the Club, exhibited two living larvæ of this handsome moth,