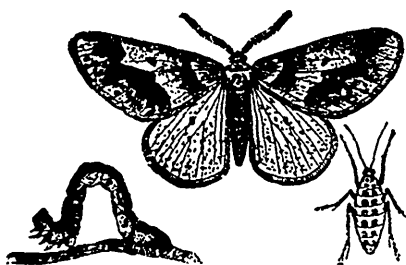


## THE MOTTLED UMBER MOTH.

*(Hibernia defoliaria, L.)*

BY JAMES FLETCHER, OTTAWA.

Some years ago I received from the Rev. G. W. Taylor, of Victoria,



THE MOTTLED UMBER MOTH; MALE AND WINGLESS FEMALE; CATERPILLAR AFTER TASCHENBERG. (Figure kindly lent by Miss E. A. Ormerod).

Vancouver Island, a specimen of the Mottled Umber Moth. This had been named by the Rev. G. D. Hulst, of Brooklyn, and was, I believe, the first specimen of the species recorded as taken in America. Later, in 1889, two specimens were forwarded from the same place by Mr. W. H. Danby. Since that time, although looked for regularly at the time the males fly in autumn, none

had been observed until this year, when the larvæ were so abundant that they caused considerable injuries to plum and cherry trees.

The following interesting letter on the occurrence of this insect last season is from Mr. W. H. Danby:—

"Dec. 7, 1893.—*H. defoliaria* has been wonderfully plentiful this year in comparison with other seasons. During June and in the early part of July, the larvæ were a pest in most orchards and gardens, and they fed upon cherry and plum, seeming to prefer the plum. None were seen on apple. In one garden a young cherry tree, 6 feet high, had a quantity on it, and the plum trees suffered considerably from the voracity of the larvæ; but the apple trees in the same garden were not affected. I forwarded larvæ to you June 20th, and placed others in a breeding cage, being lucky enough to successfully rear several to the imago. I am glad to know that you also bred the imago. In 1889, I took 3 males in Victoria, and since then have looked for it everywhere in vain till this season, when the larvæ swarmed. The imagos began to appear about November 15th, and the electric lights proved as usual to be a great attraction. On the doorways of two hotels I collected eight dozen in one morning, and every day after that more or less were to be found on the stone walls of the aforesaid hotels. One peculiar result of the electric light drawing the male imagos from all quarters to the centre of the city was that in places where they had emerged from pupæ very few males were to be seen, while the apterous ♀ was found to be common. The sexes seem to average about 1 ♀