

NOTE ON THE LARVÆ OF *PENTHINA HEBESANA*, WALK.

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During the winter of 1900-1901 the larvæ of this pretty *Grapholithid* were rather abundant at Ottawa, hibernating in the heads of mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*). Full-grown specimens were collected by the writer and Mr. C. H. Young in April, which pupated in the office on and about the 25th April, the first moths appearing on the 11th May, and the last specimen emerging on the 22nd May.

These larvæ were found in the seed-pods, and had been feeding on the seeds; numbers were present in the same head. As far as the writer knows, this is the first record, at least in Canada, of the caterpillars feeding on mullein. Dr. Howard writes that Mr. Coquillett has reared the species from *Stachys palustris*, and Mr. Chittenden from a species of flag. He adds: "It evidently has several food-plants, and sometimes it does injury to plants after they have been pressed for the herbarium."

When mature the larva is 8.5 mm. in length, at rest; when extended, 10.5 mm. The head is 1.0 mm. wide, jet black, smaller than segment 2, rounded, flattened in front, furrowed at apex; clypeus high; setæ pale, darkened towards base, some of the hairs long and some short; mouth-parts brownish; antennæ pale, darkened towards tips, pale at tips. Cervical shield shiny, not so black as head, anterior portion slightly reddish, the whole divided by a pale line. Body plump, cylindrical, dull copper colour, with a faint dark dorsal stripe. Skin finely pitted. Spiracles inconspicuous, ringed with black. Each segment has one distinct crease. Tubercles rather faint, same colour as body, setæ pale; hair from tubercle i. short, from ii. long; tubercle i. anterior to ii., iii. in a line with ii. Anal plate blackish. Thoracic feet shiny jet black; prolegs concolorous with body.

On the 24th March, 1902, two larvæ were found in the seed-pods of the above plant, but neither of these showed any trace of a dorsal stripe, and their colour was more of a dull red, not so bright as those from which the above description was taken. These two specimens were inside a thin cocoon of white silk, where they were doubtless awaiting the return of warm weather before pupating. More larvæ were collected early in May, one of which was of a dull greenish shade, with the faint dark dorsal stripe, hardly traceable on some segments.

I am indebted, through Dr. Fletcher, to Dr. Dyar for the determination of this species.