

Since then I have kept and reared a number of them at different times, and though they feed on a variety of leaves, hazel-nut bushes seem to be their favourite resort, at any rate, in Canada.

The young ones at first just nibble off the green upper surface, but after a few days are strong enough to eat along the edge of the leaf. They are of a pale green colour when first hatched, and do not altogether lose this tint until the last change of skin, when they alter a good deal in appearance and gain considerably in size. Some of the females retain the green colour through life, but most of them take some shade of brown when they reach maturity.

They are rather "thirsty souls," and always seem glad to bend their heads down and drink if water is sprinkled on the leaves where they are feeding.

Their feet are furnished with hooks and pads, so that they can walk along rough or smooth surfaces in any position, and they hold on very tenaciously, so that a sudden jerk or pull will often break off a limb; but such a loss does not seem to trouble them, and if this occurs before the final moult, a new limb will come at the next change of skin, though the new one is rather smaller than its predecessor.

When resting, the front legs are generally stretched out on either side of their long antennæ, and the legs and antennæ together greatly resemble a tuft of spicules fallen from the fir trees, that often grow over the bushes where they feed.

They take about six weeks to arrive at the adult state, and lead very harmless and inoffensive lives. The males have a well-developed spur on their centre and rear legs, but I never saw them make any use of it. They sometimes wave their front legs at each other when they meet face to face, but whether this is an angry or peaceful salutation I do not know.

Females sometimes emit a drop of fluid from the mouth, or rather from glands behind the mouth, when suddenly taken hold of; and when alarmed they frequently feign death—dropping to the ground and lying on their backs, with their legs standing out stiffly at all sorts of angles—and they will sometimes lie in this way for a quarter of an hour, or twenty minutes.

Their eggs look very like hemp seeds, and the females make no effort to deposit them in any particular spot, just letting them drop on the ground beneath where they are feeding.