

A FEW NOTES ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF *PHALONIA SPARTINANA*.

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This moth, recently described in the pages of the Canadian Entomologist* by Drs. Barnes and McDunnough, has been but once or twice taken in the open by the writer, but a number of adults have been reared in captivity at Elk Point, South Dakota. The species appears to cover a wide range of territory, for the larvæ have been found by the writer from the Canadian boundary to Southern Iowa, in fact the host grass, wherever it grows, seems to be infested by this insect.

The host grass, *Spartina michauxiana*, upon which the larvæ feed, occurs on low land and in swampy places, making a very rank growth. At times it attains a height of eight or nine feet, with a lower stem as large as a lead pencil or even larger. It is known as rope grass, or, locally, as red gut. In Eastern South Dakota the larvæ of this moth invade this grass very extensively, the infestation being as great in some places as 50%. The presence of the larvæ is shown, when the grass stem is split, by a fine, free, granular frass that loosely fills the gallery made by the borer.

The Egg.

The egg of the moth is of the disk type, so usual among the Tortricids. It is an irregular, flattened, disk-like form, ornamented by coarsely dotted radiating lines. A very few of these eggs have been seen, attached to the glumes of the *Spartina* head, the eggs being laid in ribbons of four or five, fastened together by their edges. The diameter of these disks is about .6 mm.

The Larva.

As soon as it leaves the egg the larva appears to feed first on the contents of the *Spartina* glumes, boring into one after another and devouring the anthers and stigmas of the undeveloped florets. After feeding for a week or more in this manner, it moves down to the stem, just below the base of the head and bores a circular opening into the stem after first spinning a slight silken shelter for itself for protection before it gets fairly inside. The opening it makes is about .75 mm. in diameter.

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