

Spinners, a family which contains the silkworm moths and several other thick-bodied, hairy moths, with large wings but small heads, bearing comb-like antennæ and having the mouth parts imperfect, or as in those now under consideration not developed at all. The caterpillars of the *Bombycidae* are usually hairy or tufted, and when full grown spin a cocoon for the protection of the short, thick chrysalids.

At Fig. 1 the different stages of the American Lackey Moth are given. This species appears in the perfect state in the beginning of July, about a week earlier than the other species referred to above, which is known by the name of the Forest Tent Caterpillar *C. disstria* Hüb. (*C. sylvatica* Har.)

The American Lackey Moth is a pretty species of a dull but rich reddish-brown colour, having the upper wings crossed obliquely by two clear, whitish, parallel lines. In rare instances these show faintly on the lower wings also. The fringes of the wings are chiefly of the same colour as the oblique lines. The space enclosed between the light lines is paler than the rest of the wings in the males, but of the same colour or rather darker in the females. On the under side, all four wings are crossed by a well-defined, irregular, whitish bar. The perfect insects having their mouth parts undeveloped partake of no food, but devote the whole period of their short lives to the perpetuation of their kind. As soon as they have paired and the females have laid their eggs they die. The eggs are deposited in rings upon the smaller twigs of various trees, usually within a short distance of the tips. Each egg-cluster contains from 200 to 300 eggs, which, when laid, are covered with a liquid glutinous substance which soon dries and cements them firmly together, and protects them from the weather.

A surprising point in the life history of these insects is that about a month after the eggs are laid, the young caterpillar is fully formed inside the egg and it remains in this condition all through the winter, only eating its way out from the egg in the following spring when the leaves expand. Immediately upon hatching the young caterpillars consume the glutinous covering of the eggs, and then lose no time in attacking the foliage. They at once begin the construction of their tent, which is a web of fine silk, spun in the nearest fork of the twig upon which they were hatched. This tent is increased in size as the caterpillars grow, and if left undisturbed is sometimes nearly a foot in diameter. The caterpillars are very regular in their habits, marching out in regular procession, each following close behind the