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THE LIFE-HISTORY OF THE SPINED RUSTIC, *BARATHRA CURIALIS*, SMITH.

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In the Report of the Entomologist and Botanist to the Dominion Experimental Farms for 1905, at pages 179 and 180, considerable space is given to a discussion of an outbreak of a large noctuid caterpillar, which appeared in considerable numbers in Canada during 1905. Complaints of injury by this insect were received from a wide area, extending from Nova Scotia as far west as Lake Superior. During July many kinds of plants in gardens were attacked by smooth cutworm-like caterpillars, which when small were greenish in colour, having the body divided into two equal areas above and below the spiracles by a wide black stigmatal band. In later stages of growth the upper of these areas is much darker by reason of some black velvety patches above the lateral stripes, on the dorsal area, and the under side of the body becomes pale and of a yellowish hue. These caterpillars were largely nocturnal and solitary in habit, and presented a handsome appearance, with the same velvety patches so conspicuous on *Peridroma astricta* and *P. occulta*, with three lines down the back, and having each segment ornamented with two large velvety black patches. There is great variation in the ground colour, some larvae appearing to be almost black, while others have a dark olive-green aspect, but all specimens show a distinct stigmatal band, along the side just below the spiracles, which is yellow in colour, marked centrally with red.

In the above-mentioned report this insect was treated of under the name of *Barathra occidentata*, Grote, but we have since learned from Sir George Hampson, of the British Museum, that the species is really *B. curialis*, Smith, and this identification has been confirmed by Dr. J. B. Smith and Dr. H. G. Dyar. In the past this insect has been extremely rare in Canada, the only abundant occurrence which has taken place during the last thirty years being in 1905, and although the larvae were very abundant that year, very few of the moths were taken during the past season. No parasites were bred from material collected in the field in 1905.