

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XLIII.

LONDON, AUGUST, 1911.

No. 8

NOTES ON TWO SPECIES OF APANTESIS.

BY WM. BARNES, M. D., AND J. MCDUNNOUGH, PH. D.

During March and April of this year we received from N. Carolina a number of Arctian larvæ found on lupine which could at once be recognized as representing two distinct species. The larger, and seemingly rarer of the two, was entirely-velvety black with a broken orange-red dorsal stripe, which showed in some cases a great tendency to become obsolete. It seemed most closely to agree with Abbott and Smith's figure of the larva of *A. placentia*. A reference to the literature on the subject, however, failed to clear up our doubts; Dyar, in the Journal N.Y. Ent. Soc., VIII, 42, remarks that this figure has never been verified and that no description of the larva is extant, and our search through the later literature failed to give any further data. Nothing, therefore, remained but to let Nature take its course, and to await the emergence of the imago to settle the question. The larvæ fed up well on dandelion and pupated at long intervals under a slight web on the surface of the cage. The first specimen to emerge proved a great surprise; it was a splendid male, but instead of having the fore-wings black, with several white spots, as in Abbott's figure of *placentia*, our specimen showed a very close resemblance to what we have always considered to be *phyllira*. In the course of a couple of weeks two more males similar in every particular had emerged, and we began to have wild dreams of a possible new species.

In the meantime our other group had reached maturity and pupated; they were considerably smaller and could at once be separated from the first mentioned larvæ by the fact that the tubercles were nearly all prominently tipped with ochreous, the spiracles were light orange, instead of black, and the dorsal stripe was usually broad, continuous, and creamy yellow, instead of orange-red; this latter feature, however, showed considerable variation, some of our larvæ having a much broken and reduced stripe. As these larvæ agreed fairly well with Abbott and Smith's figure of *phyllira* larva, and with Packard's description of same (Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., III, 178), as far as could be judged, we awaited with a good deal of impatience the first imagines, in order to carefully compare the