

The caterpillars of these *Halisidotas* are general feeders, and all have been found here at Ottawa feeding on oak, elm, willow, basswood, ash, etc. They become full grown in autumn, and after wandering about in search of a suitable place to make their winter home, each caterpillar spins an oblong-oval cocoon composed of the hairs from its body, interwoven with some silk. Soon after completing its cocoon, it changes to a reddish-brown object, called the pupa, and while in this state it gradually transforms into the perfect insect, the moth emerging the following June. These cocoons may often be found in open woods in spring, under pieces of old plank, dry logs, or even flat slabs of stone, which in some way have been disturbed or dislodged. After having collected these cocoons and brought them home to watch for the appearance of the moths, it often happens that one is surprised to see in the box, or breeding cage, in which they have been placed, a large fly somewhat like the ordinary house fly except in size, or a still larger kind of fly, in the sense of being longer, viz., one of the hymenoptera, instead of what we expected to see—the perfect insect or moth. To one who studies insects, however, this is not always a disappointment, as a knowledge of our parasitic, or beneficial species, is of much value, and were it not for these parasitic forms, some kinds of which prey to such a marked extent upon our native species of injurious insects, these latter would soon multiply enormously, and quickly destroy all vegetation.

The Checkered *Halisidota*, *H. tessellaris*, S. & A., is slightly larger than the other two species found at Ottawa, and expands, when the wings have been spread, about two inches. It is a delicate looking moth with semi-transparent wings, of a buff color. The forewings, which are narrower, making them appear more pointed than in *maculata* and *caryæ*, are checkered with five irregular transverse bands, margined narrowly with black, the 2nd, 4th and 5th of which extend right across the wing. The shoulder covers and collar of the thorax are the same color as the wings, but are margined on the inside with greenish-blue. Down the centre of the thorax is a stripe of the same greenish-blue. The balance of the thorax, the upper surface of the abdomen and the legs are yellowish-orange.