

On a single medium-sized wild cherry tree at Chelsea, Que., thirty-seven of these tents were counted last summer. Each such tent shelters from about one hundred to two hundred and fifty caterpillars. The caterpillars feed for about six weeks, and become mature during the last two weeks of June or earlier, according to the season and locality. They then wander restlessly about seeking a suitable shelter for pupating. They come to rest, finally, in some crevice, under loose bark, in a folded leaf, in an angle of a fence or building, or even among the silk of the tent, or on the side of a house. Each caterpillar spins about itself a tough sack or cocoon of white silk and attaches it firmly to the object upon which it rests by a mass of more loosely spun silken strands.

A fluid ejected by the caterpillar upon the cocoon dries and produces a characteristic yellow powder, which is dislodged readily when the cocoons are disturbed. Within the cocoon the caterpillar enters upon a resting or pupal stage. The outer skin dries and splits, and a brownish, apparently legless and wingless object emerges therefrom. This form of the insect is called the pupa. It lies almost motionless within the cocoon while the organs of the adult moth are developing within its hard outer skin. The cocoons are spun mostly during the last two weeks of June, and the

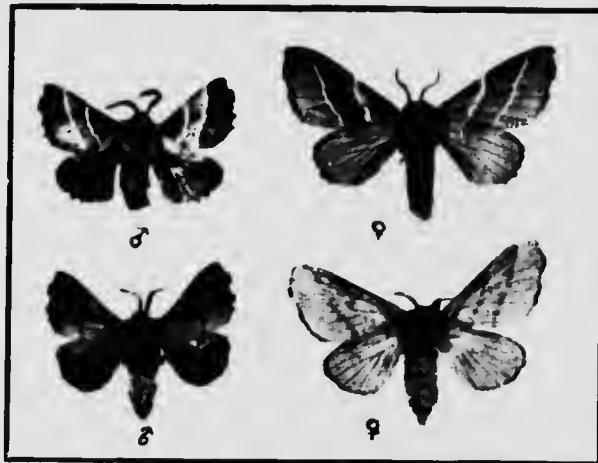


FIG. 4. Moths of the Tent Caterpillar. *M. americana* above; *M. disstria* below; ♂, male; ♀, female.

pupal stage lasts from ten days to two weeks. When the moth has fully developed within the skin of the pupa, the (pupa's) skin splits and allows it to emerge. At one end of the cocoon the fibres of silk are so arranged that the moth can work its way through without injury, and it thus escapes in perfect condition. The males and females fly during the evening and, after mating, the latter proceed to deposit their eggs. The young caterpillars are fully formed within the eggs before the end of the season, but remain there until hatching-time in the following spring.

#### THE FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR.

(*Malacosoma disstria* Hbn.)

Although the caterpillars of this species co-construct no tent, they are so closely allied to the tent-building caterpillar of the apple that they receive the same general name. The adult or moth, Fig. 4, is very similar to that of the American Tent Caterpillar, but instead of the two white bands on the fore-wings of that species it has two dark lines in nearly the same position.