

days the female deposits her eggs, glueing them singly to the under side of the leaves, usually one only on a leaf, but occasionally two or even three may be found on the same leaf.

The egg is about one-tenth of an inch in diameter, slightly convex above and below, the convex portions whitish, and the nearly cylindrical sides brown. Each female will lay from two to three hundred eggs, which hatch in ten or twelve days.

This insect is subject to the attack of many foes, particularly while in the larval state. A large number fall a prey to insectivorous birds, and they also have insect enemies. A large ichneumon fly, *Ophion macrurum*, see fig. 7, is a special and dangerous foe. This active creature may often be seen in summer on the wing, searching among the leaves of shrubs and trees for her prey.

When found she watches her opportunity, and places quickly upon the skin of her victim a small, oval, white egg, securely fastened by a small quantity of a glutinous substance attached to it. This is repeated until eight or ten eggs are placed, which in a few days hatch, when the tiny worms pierce through the skin of the caterpillar and begin to feed on the fatty portions within. The *Polyphemus* caterpillar continues to feed and grow, and usually lives long enough to make its cocoon, when, consumed by the parasites; it

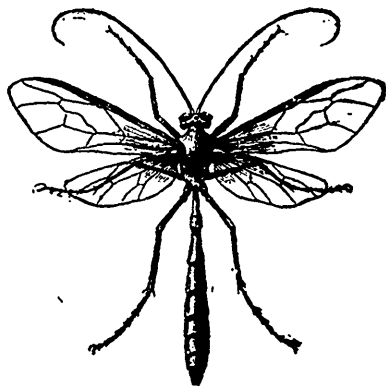


Fig. 7.

dies; in the meantime the ichneumons having completed their growth, change to chrysalids within the cocoon, and in the following summer in place of the handsome moth there issues a crop of ichneumon flies. It is also subject to the attacks of another parasite, a tachina fly. Should the insect ever appear in sufficient numbers to prove troublesome, it can be readily subdued by hand-picking. This larva feeds on a variety of trees and shrubs, such as plum, oak, hickory, elm, basswood, walnut, maple, butternut, hazel, rose, &c.

As this moth has been found to be easily propagated, extensive experi-