

she had spent so much labor upon, and which now serves to protect the cocoon. until, a few days later, a pretty, gauze-winged fly, not much over .1 inch long, comes forth, ready to begin its career of destructiveness.

This is one of Nature's ways of keeping down butterfly caterpillars. But the parasites that aid in this work are themselves kept in check by a similar process. On one occasion I found quite a number of minute flies issuing from one of the *Atalanta* parasite cocoons. They would have been unnoticed but that the cocoon was lying in a closed glass tube. A hole was discovered, as if made by a pin, and through this the flies had come. In this case the secondary parasite must have found its way into the apparently tight case of the caterpillar, and stung the grub of the *Apateles* just as the latter broke its way out, and while it was yet naked.* I found also a minute red spider inside one of the cases with a grub of the fly, and spiders do their part in keeping down parasites.

But to return to our larvæ. One in 3rd stage; that is, after 2nd moult, very soon closed the large leaf it had been placed on, first biting the mid-rib. This habit of severing the rib obtains quite to the last stage, as is evident from inspection of the deserted cases met with in my searches. Another in same (or 3rd) stage rested for two days under the bit of leaf it was attached to when I pinned it to the plant, making no attempt at a case, but went outside the bit of leaf to feed. The third day it moved up the stem and took possession of a leaf of the second pair, but instead of bringing the edges fully together in the usual way, did so but partially, and twisted the end of the leaf up and over till the case was completely closed.

A larva in 4th stage, *i. e.*, after 3rd moult, began at once to draw the edges together, not having bitten the mid-rib. The case was closed at 11 a. m. By 3 p. m., same day, this larva had constructed a new case, quite capacious and made of three leaves. Before deserting the first one, it had eaten fully half from the outer end. Next day, it had bitten off the main stem of the plant, just above its case, and had eaten the top leaves. This larva finally, after its 4th moult, left the plant and pupated in the top of the guaze bag, which covered the plant and flower-pot.

I brought in another larva, which had just passed its 3rd moult. After moving about and examining several leaves, at 30 minutes from arrival, it had established itself between two of the second and third pair, which

* Mr. Howard, of the Agricultural Dept., Washington, informs me that this little fly is of the genus *Tetrastichus*, the species probably undescribed.