

under part of the thoracic segments ; but in many cases I have seen it seize hold of the side of a caterpillar, into which it would soon almost bury its head, and not the most violent contortions on the part of its prey were of avail to dislodge it. By the time its appetite was appeased the Web-worm would be fatally injured, and a fresh one would be required for its next meal. In this way one beetle larva was capable of destroying a great number of the worms in the course of its development. The two species, web-worm and carabid, reach maturity about the same time, the period of carabid adolescence being about one week less than that of the insect on which it preys. The change to pupa takes place both on the surface of the ground and in the remnants of the web on the tree—in the latter case it (being very soft and white and not enclosed) is subject to destruction by birds and other insects. The beetle appears in from eight to ten days after the change to pupa, and requires a day or two to acquire its dark brown colour and the firmness in texture of maturity. It is very swift and furtive in its movements and remains hidden as far as possible during the daytime, but is, even in the rearing cage, quite active at night, using its wings freely. It feeds, sparingly, on aphides and similar soft insects. This season I found it in considerable numbers in the two web-worm nests that occurred in our orchard, and to test its destructive capacity I placed thirty-six three-fourths grown *Hyphantria* larvæ in a large glass jar, with three nearly mature *Plochionus* larvæ. A large number of the caterpillars were killed in the course of the following week, and from the three dozen larvæ I bred seven parasites (*Meteorus hyphantriæ*) and but three moths ; the remainder had evidently succumbed to their coleopterous foes, all three of which developed into fine beetles.

In respect to Mr. Duffey's wish to present the first published account of this insect, I refrained from mentioning it to the Club at the Indianapolis meeting, but referred to its valuable services in my notes for the Division of Entomology of the same year. Early in the autumn, 1890, Mr. Duffey read a paper on this insect and its interesting habits before the Academy of Science of St. Louis, giving its history somewhat in detail, and also technical descriptions of the adolescent stages, accompanying these with some tolerable illustrations. This paper was published in the Transactions of the Academy the following February, and renders it unnecessary for me to describe the larva and pupa more minutely.

I believe the perfect insect occurs sparingly in many sections of the country, but it may not in every locality acquire the habit of preying on