

Recently we devoted an evening to the microscopic examination of these egg clusters, having previously collected a number of them for this purpose. In many instances it was found that the glutinous coating which covers the clusters was imperfect, that a piece here and there had disappeared, leaving the eggs bare, and in some cases patches of the exposed eggs were empty. To ascertain, if possible, the cause of this, some of such affected clusters were cut into, when they were found to be colonized by mites. The outside gummy matter is of a sufficiently porous texture to afford abundant shelter to these little friends, who had evidently eaten into the eggs and devoured the young larvæ, and had also consumed the missing portions of the gummy covering. In the range of a single section of an egg mass some eggs would be found inhabited by the larvæ uninjured, while out of others would proceed several (in some cases as many as five) active little mites, who, when thus disturbed, would run in and out of their dwelling places, and keep up a peculiar drumming motion with their tiny antennæ. We found what were probably two different forms of the same species of mite, the one so small that four or five or more could find ample room and to spare within a single egg-shell, and these were very active and nearly transparent; the other much larger, of a pale red color, with bright red eyes, sluggish in its movements and only one in each egg; indeed, one specimen nearly filled an egg. On the outside of some of the clusters were found some round pale red eggs, which we presumed were the eggs of these mites. From their structure the mites appeared to belong to the genus *Trombidium*.

We have submitted examples of these insects and egg clusters to Dr. H. Hagen, of Cambridge, Mass., and he has kindly and promptly examined them and confirmed the correctness of the views above advanced. Dr. Hagen says that he found the supposed mite eggs both empty and full of the small, active, white creatures, that these active specimens are doubtless the young of the larger red form, which latter is .04 inch long, and he is of opinion that it belongs to *Trombidium*. He further says: "In the whole European literature I have not been able to find anything about Acari eating eggs, so the fact seems new and is very important."

On almost every cluster we have examined we have found more or less of these mites, and if they are thus generally distributed over the whole district inhabited by the moths, they must prove a most efficient check to the undue multiplication of *Clisiocampa*. In No. 8 of our last