

stages of the act of ovipositing. The tree was a large one, about two feet in diameter, from which the top had been broken off at a height of thirty or forty feet. The rugged bark was dotted all over with *lunators*, often massed in rows or patches, so that there must have been several hundred upon the tree, forming an unusual and most interesting spectacle. The great majority were females, but a number of males were also present. While I was consigning to my bottle a few specimens, a large woodpecker settled upon the opposite side of the tree and began to rapidly thin the ranks of the helpless insects, whose mission, like that of the woodpecker, is the destruction of wood-boring larvae.

A year later, being in the same locality, I visited this tree and found again a number of ichneumons engaged in the performance of their duty, and also saw sticking out of the bark many ovipositors which had belonged to unfortunate visitors of the previous summer.

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#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREPARATORY STAGES OF DEBIS PORTLANDIA, FABR.

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EGG.—Obovoid, the base a little flattened, and under the middle thereof is a slight rounded protuberance of lesser diameter; surface smooth; color greenish-white. Duration of this stage 4 to 6 days.

YOUNG LARVA.—Length .13 inch; cylindrical; head twice as broad as any other segment, body tapering slightly from 2 to 13; each segment from 3 to 12 several times creased, making 6 flat ridges, of which the foremost one is broadest, and on this and the fifth ridge each is a minute tubercle and rather long white hair, bent forward, the whole series forming two subdorsal rows, one a little below the other, from 3 to 13; on the middle of side a similar row, one hair to each segment and placed on the second ridge, all of them bent forward; lower down a third series, one to each segment, placed on the fourth ridge, all bent down and back; two short hairs over each pro-leg; on segment 2 are four long hairs on each side, nearly in line, two being subdorsal, the others lateral; on 13 are four hairs in cross row, all curved back, and one on either side behind these; this segment is roundly excavated at extremity, making on either