

NOTES ON SANNINA UROCERIFORMIS.

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During the spring of 1906 one of my correspondents sent me two battered and broken female moths of the family *Sesiidae* from Ocean Springs, Miss. Supposing them to be from the Peach tree, and from their battered condition not being able to make out their markings distinctly, I called them *S. exitiosa*. Having occasion to visit the fruit farm of this correspondent this spring, I was surprised to find that the moths in question were collected from pupæ on wild Persimmon trees. It was therefore with a good deal of interest that I began a careful examination of the few wild Persimmon trees on his place, and other trees of the same kind in the vicinity. This was on May 4. We were much disappointed at first in our search, because we found only empty pupa-cases, from which the adults had already and very lately flown. We found over twenty empty cases on about a dozen trees, from one inch to two inches in diameter. We were finally rewarded, however, by finding three or four fresh pupæ in some trees which had their bases heaped about with dead straw. From these we went to adjoining fields, where there were a great many small Persimmons, from one-half an inch to an inch and a half in diameter, that had been allowed to grow up in abandoned waste fields. Here among the deep grass around the bases of the trees we found twenty-odd living pupæ.

The larvæ of this moth bore into the solid wood of the taproot and stem of the Persimmon. I was unable to trace their burrows farther than eight or ten inches below the surface, but this was probably due to the small size of the trees, for Dr. Riley says they bore from 16 to 18 inches below the ground.

In most of the trees examined, one borer only was present, and in this case it usually bored directly up the centre of the tree (Plate 8, a and d). In larger trees two or more borers might be present, depending upon the size of the trees. In such instances they divide the space between them (Plate 8, b).

When ready to pupate, the larva extends its burrow two to four inches above the ground, turns it outward, cutting through the bark, and constructs a large cocoon on the side of the tree, usually at an angle of about 45° to the stem (Plate 8, c). The cocoons are dark in colour, and vary all the way from one inch to two and a half inches in length. The cocoon at c is two and one-half inches long.

August, 1907