

holes which had appeared suddenly in the pater-familias' dress suit, that had only been left out "for a few days after he came back from his summer holidays." All of these ills are only too well known to most people, and it is one of the grim satisfactions of careless people that at any rate the most careful get sometimes caught.

There has been very great confusion concerning the proper identification of the different caterpillars of moths which injure clothes in houses, and this confusion has been much added to by the absurd name Buffalo moth or Buffalo carpet moth, which has been given to the imported carpet beetle, *Anthrenus scrophulariae*. In an account given in our Annual Report for 1873, there are evidently two species confounded. The whole matter was carefully revised by Prof. Fernald in 1882, and the synonymy given, together with descriptions of the three species which are found in North America, in CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Vol. XIV, p. 166. There is also an excellent illustrated article by Prof. C. V. Riley in *Insect Life*, Vol. II, p. 211. Figs. 32 and 33 used in that article have been kindly lent by Prof. Riley.

Of the three species mentioned, two only have come under my notice in Canada as household pests. Of these by far the commonest is the small creamy white or buff coloured moth, *Tineola biselliella*, Hum.

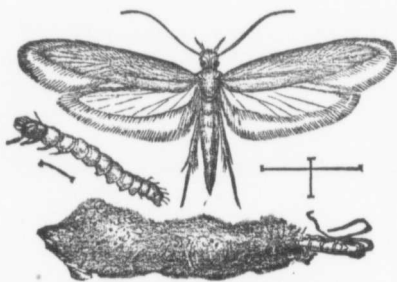


Fig. 32.—*Tineola biselliella*.

This species Prof. Fernald tells us, was separated from the genus *Tinea* by Herrick Schaeffer because of the absence of the maxillary palpi. The small moths (Fig. 32), less than a quarter of an inch in length, are extremely active, flying and running rapidly to hide when disturbed. The head is dull ochreous yellow; the forewings paler and of a silvery sheen without any spots. The under wings are of a slightly different shade of color. The minute yellowish eggs are laid upon the substance which is afterwards to be the food of the young caterpillar. Immediately upon hatching, the tiny caterpillar spins a silken path upon which it travels in search of food. It never, however, forms a case, as is done by the next species to be described, until it is full fed, when it makes a cocoon generally of portions of the material upon which it has been feeding. The food of this troublesome insect is very varied, but consists mainly of fabrics composed of animal hairs; any clothes packed away in a soiled condition are much more liable to attack than those which have been well shaken and brushed. Carpets are often attacked, particularly in darkened rooms and under heavy pieces of furniture which cannot be easily moved, and where therefore frequent sweeping is not possible. Dust in the cracks of floors and under skirt-boards provides a constant supply of food for this insect, and the active little moths penetrate drawers and boxes through very small fissures. Sable-hair paint brushes seem to be a special delicacy for these little fiends, to which, however, few things in the shape of animal hair come amiss. Some instances of their injuries which have been reported to me are the following: the felt facings of the dampers and hammers of a piano were so destroyed in a single summer as to necessitate a complete renewal; another instance of considerable injury from this little enemy was the cutting of the woollen cord by which a large and valuable picture was suspended; the picture fell and was not only injured itself, but did considerable damage to other objects beneath it.

Frequently collections of insects suffer from the depredations of *Tineola biselliella*, and I have in my collection not only *Lepidoptera*, of which the wings have been destroyed, and several locusts, to which it seems very partial, but what seems to me very remarkable, a large greasy specimen of *Necrophorus orbicollis*, of which the interior has been eaten out, and the only indication of the marauder is its empty pupa case, protruding between the head and thorax of the beetle.

The white grub-like caterpillar of this species never forms a true case as does that of another species, *Tinea tapetzella*, which makes for itself a silken gallery mixed with

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*Tinea p* regions, but Nova Scotia had certainly in *Insect L* thus briefly small light tinguished, 33 by the intervals on to appear frequently s as late as A and the fer for suitable position of her way into deep into the apparently stinct the places. From the white s for itself fro shape of a they enlarg the sides w winter and through the end with sil had fed, d cornice of following s the pupae, b

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