

larvæ reared upon the leaves of *Sambucus Canadensis*, are the largest that I have ever seen. They measure fully four and a half inches in length, and have a diameter of nearly three inches. They are less compact than those found upon any of the foregoing plants, being very light and considerably inflated. The chrysalis within is proportionally large. In some parts of the country, along the borders of thickets and waste fields, they are found in abundance, and thrive handsomely upon the elder. The moulting periods are shorter, and the chrysalis stage is attained at least a fortnight sooner than is usual. At first, where plants more congenial to the taste, are in close proximity, a disposition to stray thereto was discernible. To obviate this difficulty, perfectly isolated plants were selected, which proved highly successful. Frequent attempts to rear caterpillars before the first moulting was over, upon foreign plants, proved in every case an utter failure. It is doubtless true that instinct has much to do in the matter, but may it not be that the jaws and legs are so constructed at first as to be only adapted to cutting and holding on to the leaves of particular plant-species? This being so, with the further development of these organs, would certainly come the power of adaptability to take advantage of the changes thus introduced into their *environment*.

The food has certainly much to do with the color of the cocoon. Caterpillars feeding upon the leaves of the common red currant, produce silk of a deep reddish-brown color; while the leaves of the cherry, plum, and the several species of *Rosa*, give a light brown color, bordering on gray. Cocoons taken from *Spiræa*, *Symphoricarpus* and *Prunus serotina*, are invariably a grayish-brown. There is also plainly noticeable in caterpillars feeding upon these plants, with the exception of those feeding upon *Ribes rubrum*, a tendency to lighter colors, which in some cases is decidedly marked, as in the case of those feeding upon the leaves of *Prunus domestica*, where the lateral tubercles often display a beautiful pearl color.

That food has certainly much to do in determining the sexes among Lepidoptera, I think has been clearly shown in the writings of Mrs. Treat, and in those of the author, although leading authorities are disposed to think differently. But, notwithstanding their opinions to the contrary, I cannot be deterred from placing upon record my experience of the past summer with *Platysamia cecropia*. As before remarked, quite a number of caterpillars were constrained to feed upon the leaves of plants that betrayed anything but a healthy appearance. It has been already shown that