

*missata*

2. THE ROSY FOREST CATERPILLAR (*Dryocampa rubicunda*, Fab.)

Order, LEPIDOPTERA ; Family, DRYOCAMPA.

The last described insect, as we have seen, attacked the wood only of the trees, but the insects we are about to treat of devour the leaves, and by their attacks on the young buds materially affect the growth of the young maples.

The name *Dryocampa*, signifying oak or forest caterpillar, was originally applied by the late Dr. Harris, the talented Entomologist of the State of Massachusetts, to certain insects found sometimes in great numbers on oak trees, and of which one species, *Dryocampa senatoria* is exceedingly common in the larval state. The Ruby Forest Caterpillar, however, is generally found on the silver maple, *acer dasycarpum*, or the swamp maple, *acer rubrum*.

The caterpillars are hatched about the month of July, and their presence may often be detected by their droppings on the ground beneath the trees, although it is not always easy to discover the insect itself. Mr. William Saunders has bred the moth from the larva, and we therefore avail ourselves of his description published in the *Canadian Entomologist*, Vol. II., page 75.

The larva when full grown is about one inch and three quarters long. The head is rather small, flattened and bilobed in front, of a pale orange colour, and having a black dot on each side below, near the mandibles or jaws. The body above is yellowish white, with a stripe of rather indistinct pale green on the back, and three stripes of the same hue on each side. *The third segment has two black horns fully one tenth of an inch long, one on each side of the dorsal stripe, and spreading outwards.* On each segment are several black dots or tubercles, those on the twelfth and thirteenth segments being the most distinct. On the sides of the posterior segments is a pale reddish, orange patch, nearly the colour of the head. The under surface is deep, glossy green, with a faint whitish line down the middle, and many small blackish dots or tubercles. The feet are pale reddish ; the pro-legs pale green, dotted with black.

The larvæ having arrived at maturity seek shelter in the ground, and there undergo their transformation into the pupal state, remaining thus all the winter and spring, and emerging as perfect moths the following summer. The method by which the apparently inanimate pupa effects its escape has been well described by Dr. Harris in writing of a very similar insect—the *Dryocampa imperialis*: “The Chrysalis is rough with little elevated points, particularly on the anterior extremity, and ends behind with a long forked spine, and is surrounded on each ring with a notched ridge, the little teeth of which point towards the tail. Three of the grooves or incisions between the rings are very deep, thus allowing a great extent of motion to the joints, and these with the notched ridges and the long spine at the end of the body, enable the chrysalis to work its way upwards in the earth above the surface of which it pushes the fore part of its body just before the moth makes its escape.”

Fig. 27.



Colours—Pale yellow and rose.

The perfect insect, of which Fig. 27 represents the male, is a very beautiful and delicately coloured creature. The forewings are rose coloured crossed by a broad pale yellow band ; the hind wings are pale yellow with a short rosy band behind the middle, this in some specimens especially males is wanting ; the body is yellow ; the abdomen and legs are rose coloured. The male expands about one inch and three quarters, while the female reaches fully two inches, the body of the male does not extend beyond the hind wings as does that of the female. The antennæ of the latter are simple and thread like in form while those of the male, as will be seen on referring to the figure, are deeply pectinated or comb shaped to much beyond half their length, and minutely serrated or saw-shaped from thence to the tips. Dr. Harris conjectured that sometimes two broods might occur in the season ; as in 1842, he captured specimens of the larvæ in July which produced the moth in August, and in September following, he took many more caterpillars. He, however, accounted for this on the ground, “that all insects have their periods of increased numbers which in some instances may be unfixed