

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, APRIL 8, 1870.

No. 6.

NOTE ON *AMPHIPYRA TRAGOPOGONIS*, LINN.

BY THE EDITOR.

On the 6th of June, 1868, we observed for the first time a handsome green caterpillar eating some lettuce that we were growing in our grapery; thinking that it could not very well escape we merely took a rough description, as follows: Sixteen footed caterpillar, about an inch long, pale green (almost the color of lettuce leaves) above, deeper green below; a white dorsal line, two lateral white lines, the lower passing through the spiracles; all five lines proceeding from head to tail. Before we secured it, it did however escape, probably entering the ground.

The following year, in June and early in July, we observed many similar larvæ on a number of different plants, both in the garden and in the woods. The following description of a nearly full-grown specimen was taken on the 3rd of July:—

Length 1.00 inch. Colour beautiful apple-green. Head pale green, with a dark spot on each side in front; dorsal, sub-dorsal, and spiracular lines, narrow, pure white; the spiracular lines begin on the second segment, the others on the third; on all the segments except the head and second, there are a few minute white granulations tipped with black, and terminating each in a fine hair; spiracles white; feet green.

On July 11th it formed a slight silken cocoon in the box in which it was confined, having no earth to burrow into, and there assumed the pupa state. The imago appeared on the 3rd of August, and proved to be a specimen of *Amphipyra tragopogonis*, Linn.

This excessively common moth, found all over the Province of Ontario, and also in Quebec, appears to be an importation from Europe, where, according to Guénée and Stainton, it is very abundant. Its specific name is derived from the Salsify, or Vegetable-oyster plant (*Tragopogon*), on which, as well as on Spinach, Dock, and other plants, it feeds, according to Fabricius. In England it is called the "Mouse" moth, either from its colour or its habit "of creeping into houses, and secreting itself in blinds, and