

NOTES ON *ALARIA FLORIDA*, Guén.

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In July of last year there bloomed in my garden a fine plant of that variety of evening primrose known as "*Lamarckiana*" (*Oenothera Lamarckiana*). I had been advised by an Entomological friend to procure this flower with the view of attracting moths at night, and found it to succeed admirably. Its lovely yellow petals expand suddenly about seven o'clock every evening, and diffuse a fragrance all around very attractive to Sphingidae and other nocturnal moths. The flowers expand about three inches and are very beautiful; they remain expanded until some time after sunrise the following morning, when they close to open no more. The plant flowers abundantly, fresh ones appearing every evening.

I was surprised at the number of specimens of *Alaria Florida* which were attracted—a charming little moth with the greater part of its fore wings covered with brilliant rosy red. It had always been a rarity with me before, indeed for several years I think I had not met with it at all; but now, night after night I found them hovering around these flowers, and on several occasions found three or four specimens the morning following buried amidst the closing petals.

After a few days I saw no more, but soon observed a smooth green caterpillar feeding on my favorite plant. Not content with eating the leaves only, these marauders had a special preference for the flower buds, eating away into their tender substance and utterly destroying them. It did not occur to me at the time that this might be the larva of *A. Florida*, but so it afterward proved. After killing most of them, several were reserved and fed for some time on the leaves of the plant, after which they changed to pale brown chrysalides. The following is a description of the full grown larva:

Described July 25th—Length 1.10 inches; cylindrical.

Head rather small, slightly bilobed, pale yellowish green; mandibles tipped with dark brown.

Body above pale green semi-transparent; a dorsal line of a darker green, due to the transparency of skin showing the internal organs; a lateral line of the same shade of color, but fainter; *second segment with a patch of pale dull red on each side; entire upper surface downy, with very short pale brown and whitish hairs scarcely visible without a magnifier; spiracles pale brown.*

Under surface similar to upper, a little darker shade of green prevailing on anterior segments; feet and prolegs green, the latter faintly tipped with brown.