

THE CODLIN MOTH. (*Carpocapsa pomonella*.)

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The Editor has kindly sent me some correspondence lately received containing enquiries relating to this insect, from which it appears that erroneous ideas have been circulated of late by the press in reference to the habits of the codlin moth. The statements made, although somewhat contradictory, are all claimed to come from reliable men, who do not however attach their names to the communications. It is asserted, in the first place, that the female codlin moth has no wings, but crawls up the apple trees to deposit its eggs on the fruit. Second, that it has wings, and is attracted by sweets, and that hundreds of them may be readily caught by hanging jars of sweetened water at night among the branches of the apple trees. A third statement is that the larvae, when full grown, descend to the ground and enter the earth to change to chrysalids.

It is evident that the first conclusion as to the wingless character of the females has been arrived at by the writer confounding the canker worm moth or the tussock moth with the codlin moth. In both the former species the females are wingless, but the female codlin moth is furnished with ample wings, with which she flies as actively as her male companion.

With regard to the trapping of codlin moths by means of sweet liquids, I may say that it is contrary to the experience of all entomologists. Many years ago this remedy was recommended, and I then gave it what I considered a fair test. At the time when the codlin moths were plentiful and on the wing, I hung bottles of sugar and water, others with the same sweet liquid mixed with a little Jamaica rum, and another series mixed with other flavoring materials which were supposed to be particularly attractive to insects. Hundreds of moths were captured, but the most careful examination failed to reveal the presence of a single codlin moth among them. Other entomologists have tried this remedy with similar results.

Entomologists everywhere are in the habit of trapping moths by alluring them to sweetened fluids by night. The liquor generally used is West India molasses mixed with ale, or diluted with water flavored with Jamaica rum. This is brushed on the smooth bark of trees, or on pieces of shingle tacked to them; or pieces of cloth or flannel are