

of the Brazils and the red under wings of the genus *Catocala*; which in their great wing expanse, semi-looping caterpillars, and scent pencils, bridge over the gap between the *Noctuina* and *Geometrina*. Yet as their *wings* want the *hook*, so do their *fans* want the *pouch* that conceals them in these moths. Indeed the ghost moths, and the family of the *Hepialidae* to which they belong, want so many of those characters that characterize lepidoptera, that one is led on to the supposition that their progenitors never acquired them; and they belong to an older race, that in time past has disseminated itself from Europe to the antipodes of the Maories. Other races, as the species of *Psychidae* and *Coleophora*, whose distribution is equally great, are in their economy scarcely indeed less curious; and the worm-like females of the first, sitting on their caddis-cases composed of straws, bring us very low down indeed in the scale of insect organization and adaptation, while they seem at the same time to transport us back in geological time.

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## ENTOMOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS.

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### *THE GREAT LEOPARD MOTH—Epantheria scribonia* Stoll.

BY THE EDITOR.

The larva of this insect is comparatively abundant in the autumn throughout most of the Northern United States and in many parts of Canada. It is found feeding on various species of plants, but most commonly on the wild Sunflower, *Helianthus decapetalus*. It is about two and a half inches long, with a shining black head shaded with reddish on the sides, and a brownish black body. Each segment has an irregular transverse row of tubercles from which spring tufts of rigid shining black hairs, while the spaces between each segment from the fourth to the tenth inclusive are banded with red, the bands being widest and most conspicuous from the sixth to the ninth inclusive. These bands are a striking feature in the appearance of the caterpillar, especially when it is coiled up as shown in figure 12 (after Riley). The color of the under side varies