

Xylena curvamacula Morr.

THE EGG.

Dome-shaped, flattened at base, slightly so at apex, which is terminated in a centrally depressed nipple, surrounded by a shallow channel. Laid in scattered clusters, creamy yellow in colour at first but later turning to dark purple. Ridges 33, cross striae distinct. Diameter .87 mm.

THE LARVA.

Stage I. Length in this stage 2.5. Head .41 mm. wide, yellowish in colour, shiny, bearing many fine setae. Ocelli, black, prominent. General body colour pale green. Tubercles distinct, tipped with black, each bearing a single prominent seta. Legs, prothoracic and anal shields, greenish-brown.

Stage II. Length 3 mm. Head .65 mm. wide, very light brown, shiny. Ocelli black. General body colour pale green. Three stripes are now present, dorsal, lateral and stigmatal. All are white, the last much more conspicuous than the first two. Tubercles not so distinct as in previous stage, each tipped with black, and bearing a single seta. True and thoracic legs concolourous with venter. Prothoracic shield and anal plate of same colour as body, very distinct.

Stage III. Length 14 mm. Head 1 mm. wide, shiny green, very similar to stage II. General body colour green, the dorsum noticeably darker in colour than the venter. All stripes as before, the lateral and dorsal narrow and the stigmatal much more distinct, being broader and not so broken. Tubercles inconspicuous, tipped with white, each bearing a single seta. Prothoracic shield, anal plate, true feet and prolegs all concolourous with body.

Stage IV. Length 19 mm. Head 1.7 to 1.75 mm. wide, green, shiny; ocelli black. General colour of dorsum apple green, venter lighter green. Dorsal and stigmatal lines more distinct than lateral, which is much broken up in parts. All stripes white. Tubercles distinct, white tipped, each bearing a solitary hair. True legs, prolegs, prothoracic and anal shields concolourous with body.

Stage V. Length 25 mm. Head 2.60 mm. wide, shiny, green. Ocelli as in previous stages. General body colour green. In this stage the venter is darker, being almost as dark as dorsum. Dorsal stripe white, distinct. Lateral stripe fainter, much broken, made up of a series of dots in many places. Stigmatal stripe very distinct, composed of an upper dark green and a lower pearly white line. Spiracles ringed with brown, not prominent. Tubercles less conspicuous, white, each bearing a single seta. Thoracic feet and prolegs, anal plate and thoracic shield, green.

Stage VI. Length soon after moulting 26 mm. Head 4.25 mm. wide, brown, mottled with many irregular darker brown spots; mandibles very dark brown; ocelli black. Dorsum a shade darker than head, velvety in appearance, venter lighter in colour than dorsum. Prothoracic shield concolourous with the latter. Each dorsal segment bears a wide, dark brown V-shaped marking which arising at the posterior margin of the segment spreads to its anterior margin. Dorsal stripe broad, dark greyish, brown, widening between segments. Lateral stripe absent. Stigmatal stripe yellowish-white, conspicuous. Spiracles white ringed with black. Tubercles very small, indistinct, white. True feet and prolegs concolourous with venter, the former darker at the tips. Anal plate green, inconspicuous, resembling the dorsum closely in colour.

Full grown larva, 32 mm.

THE PUPA.

Length 19.5 mm. Width where widest 6.5 mm. General body colour brown, wing cases, ventral portion of head, first two abdominal segments and cremaster much darker. Spiracles small, inconspicuous, ringed with black. Cremaster, in the one specimen examined, jet black and much wrinkled, bearing on either side of the dorsal surface, about a third from the tip, a single dark brown, out curving spine.