

*The Caterpillar*, Fig. 6, is about two inches long when full grown. The ground colour of its body is bluish or nearly black, and it has a series of conspicuous white or cream-coloured spots along the middle of the back, with two brownish-yellow bands along the upper part of each side. The row of spots along the middle of the back distinguishes this species from the American Tent Caterpillar, which has instead a continuous whitish dorsal band.

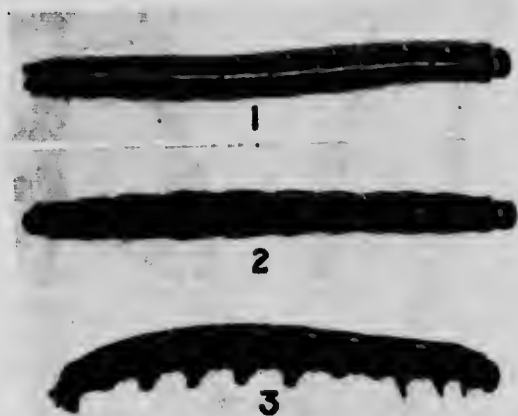


Fig. 6. 1, the American Tent Caterpillar; 2 and 3, the Forest Tent Caterpillar. (Slightly enlarged.)

*The Egg-mass*, Figs. 2, 3 and 5, is deposited in a ring-like band usually surrounding the smaller twigs of the trees upon which the caterpillars feed. When the moths are very abundant the egg-masses are laid promiscuously upon almost any available surface. Normally, the egg-mass surrounds the twig as a shining, thick, dark-coloured band containing from 150 to 350 eggs imbedded in a glue-like substance which hardens and holds them in place. The masses are very similar to those of the American Tent Caterpillar, but are more squarely cut at the end.

*Life-history and habits.*—The general life-history is similar to that of the American Tent Caterpillar. The winter is passed in the egg-stage on the twigs. The caterpillars emerge from the eggs in early April about the time the leaf buds are bursting, and feed upon the opening buds and leaves. The caterpillars from each egg-mass usually keep together and feed in congress. They spin an almost invisible silken thread wherever they go, but construct no tent. At intervals, particularly during cold weather, they crowd closely together on the trunk or upon the side of a large branch; and when they are half grown or over, these patches of caterpillars are quite conspicuous. The majority of the caterpillars become full grown during the latter half of June and spin their cocoons commonly in a folded leaf; but when these are scarce, as is unfortunately too often the case, they utilize any convenient hiding-place. The moths appear from the cocoons during the first half of July, and may be found flying and ovipositing at the same time as the moths of the American Tent Caterpillar. The egg-masses are deposited on the twigs during July, and hatch in the following April. The time of appearance of the moths and the time of hatching of the eggs vary considerably with the season and with the locality.

As the caterpillars increase in size they molt, or change their skin, several times. The dry cast skins are often found clinging in clusters on the bark, commonly where the caterpillars have been resting in congress. Any sudden jar causes these pests