

Pupa.—(Plate III, fig. 5). Cases large, compacted, a large prominent knob at the base of the wing case; abdomen small, conically tapering, but enlarged on the dorsal side toward the base; three moveable incisures. The lines of the wing veins and the abdominal segments are marked by punctures. Corresponding to the position of the larval warts and to the legs are a series of tufts of flattened straw-colored scales. Two pairs of hooks on the head (Plate III, fig. 8), and many strong ones on the cremaster (Plate III, fig. 7). The color is a rich mahogany red with blue and violet shadings especially on the wing cases. Length 20, width 7 mm.

Food Plant.—The leaves of *Echites umbellata*. Kindly determined by Mr. F. Kinzel, to whom I am also indebted for a supply of the plant. In confinement the larvæ will also eat oleander, but did not occur on this plant in nature. Mrs. Slosson informs me that she has found the larvæ on *Canavalia obtusa*.

Habitat.—This species reaches us from Brazil, being found also in Central America and the West Indies. It is abundant in Key West, as I learn from Mr. Brownell, and its northernmost record is on the strip of land between Indian River and the sea. Eggs, larvæ in all stages and moths were found at the same time, and the species doubtless breeds continuously.

THE LARVA OF SYNTOMEIDA EPILAIS *Walk.*

BY HARRISON G. DYAR.

This larva was met with on the oleander at Palm Beach, Florida, in January, 1890, and again in the same place in 1896. Its life history will be found described in the second volume of "Insect Life," page 360, and the object of the present note is to call attention to the figure on the plate (Plate III, fig. 10).

The hair tufting of this larva is decidedly unusual. All the hair tufts are gathered into slender pencils, not spreading tufts as usual, so that here the body is entirely exposed to view. Some of these hair pencils are long, others very short and warts iv and v are much reduced, nearly obsolete.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE III.

- Fig. 1. Egg of *Composia fidelissima* enlarged $\times 20$.
 " 2. Larva, stage I $\times 18$.
 " 3. Mature larva, natural size.
 " 4. Front view of the head $\times 10$, showing the setæ.
 " 5. Pupa, slightly enlarged.
 " 6. A group of scales from the body of the pupa $\times 40$.
 " 7. Some of the hooks of the cremaster $\times 30$.
 " 8. One of the head hooks $\times 40$.
 " 9. Genealogical tree of the Lepidopterous superfamily Noctuina, showing the probable origin of the North American families from a Tineid stock. The European Lemoniidæ are included as a connecting link. The narrow cross bars indicate points at which cubitus became 4-branched on the fore wings; the broad shaded bars, points at which the larva-tubercles became warts.
 " 10. Mature larva of *Syntomeida epilais*, natural size.

FOOD-HABITS OF NORTH AMERICAN CERAMBYCIDÆ.

BY WILLIAM BEUTENMULLER.

In the American Entomologist, Vol. III, 1880, pp. 237 and 270, the late Dr. C. V. Riley published a paper on the food-habits of the long-horn beetles or wood-borers. Since then considerable has been added to our knowledge on the food-habits of this family of beetles. It has therefore been deemed advisable to republish Dr. Riley's paper with such additions which have been made. For personal credit the reader is referred to Dr. Riley's paper and Packard's Fifth Report U. S. Entomological Commission. We are also indebted to Mr. L. H. Joutel for many notes incorporated in the present paper and which have not been published elsewhere.

Ergates spiculatus *Lec.*—This western species is recorded as living in the roots of coniferous trees, especially pine.

Mallodon dasystemus *Say.*—Bores in the wood of oak, hackberry (*Celtis*) and pecan hickory, and undoubtedly other species of hickory.

Mallodon melanopus *Linn.*—Lives in box elder (*Negundo aceroides*), oak and hackberry (*Celtis*).



Dyar, Harrison G. 1896. "The Larva of Syntomeida epilais Walk." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 4, 72-73.

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