

Nothrus simplex, sp. nov.

Length .9 mm. Pale yellow-brown. Cephalothorax quite flat, triangular, concave in the middle sides, rounded in front, and with a pair of bristles; superior bristles quite long; setæ moderate, clavate. Abdomen much depressed, smooth above, with irregular, shallow depressions, truncate at base, gradually growing broader, broadly rounded behind; two simple bristles on margin, one near middle, and one towards the tip; margin very acute. Venter finely granulate, showing a narrow triangular area which encloses the connate ventral apertures; the genital one being a little broader than long and slightly narrower behind; the anal one slightly longer than the genital, nearly twice as long as broad, and much broader at base than at tip; legs short, the joints thick, with parallel sides, slightly roughened, and with short simple bristles, the coxæ separate.

Readily distinguished by its depressed and simple body, the rounded tip and the few simple bristles. The young are of an obovate form and have a corrugated epidermis; *i. e.*, folded into curved ridges. A few specimens shaken from wet sphagnum, Roslyn. N. Y.

LARVA OF DEMAS PROPINQUILINEA; ITS SYSTEMATIC POSITION.

By HARRISON G. DYAR, Ph. D.

Prof. E. B. Poulton has shown that dorsal eversible glands are of general occurrence throughout the larvæ of the Lymantriidæ (Trans. Ent. Soc., London, 1887, p. 300) on the tenth and eleventh joints, or rarely only on the eleventh joint (*Dasychira pudibunda*). Probably these structures are characteristic of the family, but Prof. Poulton did not find them in *Demas*. This genus has been considered to belong to the Noctuidæ, but English authors assume it to be a Lymantriid. Mr. J. W. Tutt remarks in speaking of Prof. J. B. Smith's recent catalogue of the Noctuidæ (Entom. Record, etc., VI., 70), "The obsolete position of *Demas* among the Noctuidæ is retained." Now is this position "obsolete"? The absence of the retractile tubercles certainly throws doubt on the matter. Now I have shown a characteristic difference in the arrangement of the thoracic tubercles between the Lymantriidæ and Noctuidæ (Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci., XIV, 57) and *Demas* shows the Noctuid structure. Therefore, on all essential larval characters *Demas* is a Noctuid. It might, indeed, be an Arctian, as far as the larva goes, but not a Lymantriid. As concerning the structure of the imago, *Demas* seems to have greater affinity with the Noctuidæ than any

other family. In fact, it appears to me that the placing of *Demas* among the Lymantriidæ may properly be characterized as premature.

The larva of our one species (*D. propinquilinea*) has been described by Goodell and Thaxter. Mr. Goodell describes the usual form, but his description of the red hair-tufts I cannot exactly reconcile and he does not mention the anterior pair. Dr. Thaxter notes a variety in which the tufts are black instead of red. I subjoin my own notes. Two points of interest may be noted about this larva. (1) It greatly resembles in general appearance *Halisidota harrisii*, and like it is fond of hiding during the day. (2) It possesses a curious coloration which may serve to suggest to its insect enemies that it is already occupied by a parasite. This consists of a series of oblique black shades adjoining the white spiracles; the elliptical white spiracle greatly resembles the egg of *Tachina*, while the dark shade represents the path of the emerged parasite. The appearance is very natural.

Larva.—Head white shining, covered with angular light red blotches which obscure the ground color above apex of clypeus, except in narrow irregular lines; jaws black; bases of antennæ and labrum pale; width about 4 mm. Body grayish white with wrinkled irregular transverse lines. Spiracles white, each surrounded and preceded by an oblique black patch. Warts large, iv absent, on joints 3 and 4 two warts above the stigmatal wart and one below it; hair rather bristly, not long nor obscuring the body, but quite abundant, white; from tubercle ii on joint 3 a light red pencil; from the upper half of tubercle i on joints 5 and 12 a red tuft, the component parts approximating and forming a single dorsal tuft. No secondary hairs, but a few long ones from the extremities. Warts white. A faint dorsal and lateral dusky stripe, not formed of pigment, but more transparent than the other parts of the skin. Warts i and ii on joint 12 form a trapezoid.

Found on maple in a house of two leaves united by silk. Imago in May.

Pupa shining dark brown with a large wrinkled cremaster and three movable incisures. Of the usual Noctuid appearance (quite unlike *Orgyia*) and passing the winter.



Dyar, Harrison G. 1895. "Larva of *Demas propinquilinea*; Its Systematic Position." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 3, 130–131.

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