

THE ARCTIC LYMANTRIID LARVA FROM MT. WASHINGTON,  
N. H. (*DASYCHIRA ROSSII* CURT.?)

BY HARRISON G. DYAR, NEW YORK, N. Y.

About twenty years ago, Mr. Grote recorded (Psyche, I, 131) the capture on Mt. Washington, above timber line, of an Arctic form of Lymantriidae which he referred to as a variety of *Laria rossii* Curtis. Last summer a number of larvae occurred to me on *Vaccinium* and *Betula* near the summit which I believe to be the larvae of this species. Others were found by Mrs. A. T. Slosson and, near the top of Mt. Adams, by Master Richard Seager. The larvae do not agree with Dr. Packard's description of *Laria rossii* (Amer. Nat. xi, 52) taken by the Polaris expedition in northern Greenland, but neither did his moths quite correspond, and he may have had before him examples of *Dasychira groenlandica* in which the hind wings are colored as he describes. The original locality for *rossii* in Boothia is much nearer to our own region than is northern Greenland, and true *rossii* has been recorded from Labrador by Christoph and Möschler; hence it seems probable that the Mt. Washington race should prove more like these. The moths are actually so, showing the yellowish color on the hind wings.

There seems little doubt but that these Arctic forms are branches of a race represented in Europe by *Dasychira selenitica*. If we remove from the larva of *selenitica* the slender hair

pencils which arise from joints 2 and 12, we should have a very close approximation to the larva described by Dr. Packard; and if we further modify the same larva by adding tufts on joints 10 and 11, like those already present on joints 5 to 9 and 12, we should have practically the Mt. Washington larva.

Curtis describes the larva of *D. rossii* as follows: "Large and hairy, of a beautiful shining velvety black, the hairs being somewhat ochereous; there are two tufts of black on the back, followed by two of orange." Unfortunately this meagre statement leaves the question open as to whether *D. rossii* is like Dr. Packard's larva or mine. Perhaps the "two black and two orange tufts" refers to the younger stages; it cannot refer to either Dr. Packard's mature larva or to mine. In the rest of the description there is no mention of the absence of tufts from joints 10 and 11, and the presumption would be that the larvae were uniformly tufted like my Mt. Washington ones. However, I recognize that too much weight should not be given to omissions in such imperfect descriptions.

The following is a description of the Mt. Washington larvae: Head rounded, velvety brown-black, densely hairy; clypeus black, smooth; a reddish shade on the posterior side of head; width 3.2 mm. Warts normal

for the Lymantriidae; three above the stig-  
matal wart on joints 3 and 4; wart i mod-  
erately large on abdomen; wart iv very  
small, behind the spiracle; leg plates dis-  
tinct. Dorsal eversible areas on joints 10  
and 11 normal, whitish, more or less con-  
cealed by the hair, often completely so.  
Body black with a frosty gray shade; hair  
thick, all barbed, some heavily feathered  
but none plumed. Tufts from warts i on

joints 5 to 9 and 12 a little more closely  
bunched, but no true tufts and no pencils.  
Hair gray, mixed with black, with bright yel-  
low hairs on the lower side of wart ii on  
joints 5 to 13 and at the bases of all the hair  
bunches on the thorax. Subventral hair  
bunches small. The gray hairs are densely  
feathery on warts i to v, the black and yel-  
low ones only spinulose. Hair not very  
long, quite even but not regularly so.

### NOTES ON THE SPECIES OF EXORISTA OF TEMPERATE NORTH AMERICA.

BY C. H. TYLER TOWNSEND, LAS CRUCES, N. MEX.

The following twelve species of *Exo-  
rista* all belong to the middle and  
eastern United States with one excep-  
tion, *E. lagoae* being from Guanajuato  
on the Mexican tableland. They com-  
prise all the species that I have so far  
been able to recognize from the tem-  
perate portions of North America.  
None of the twenty-seven Mexican  
species described by Mr. v. d. Wulp  
are included. They mostly belong to  
the neotropical fauna. I am under  
many obligations to Mr. S. H. Scudder  
for sending me, some years ago, the  
types of the dipterous parasites men-  
tioned in his Butterflies of the Eastern  
United States and Canada. It was a  
study of these, and comparison of them  
with other types which I then possessed,  
that enabled me to prepare the follow-  
ing table of *Exorista*, as well as a  
similar one of the allied genera *Masi-  
cera* and *Phorocera*. I have examined  
all the species mentioned in the table.

#### Table of Species.

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Palpi wholly black or dark brown-<br>ish . . . . .                                    | 2                  |
| Palpi wholly or partly yellow or<br>rufous yellow . . . . .                              | 5                  |
| 2. Second abdominal segment with<br>both discal and marginal macro-<br>chaetae . . . . . | 3                  |
| Second segment with only marginal<br>macrochaetae . . . . .                              | 4                  |
| 3. Anal segment unusually bristly,<br>rather strongly and thickly so                     |                    |
| <i>hirsuta</i>   |                    |
| Abdomen with only the usual<br>bristles . . . . .  | <i>nigripalpis</i> |
| 4. Anal segment brassy yellow polli-<br>nose . . . . .                                   | <i>futilis</i>     |
| Abdomen shining black and silvery,<br>without brassy pollen on anal<br>segment . . . . . | <i>theclarum</i>   |
| 5. Second and third segments with both<br>discal and marginal macrochaetae<br>. . . . .  | 6                  |



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