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## THE CRINKLED FLANNEL MOTH (MEGALOPYGE CRISPATA, PACK.).

BY M. V. SLINGERLAND, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, N. Y.

September 3rd, 1895, I received several nearly full-grown specimens of the curious, sluglike caterpillars of this beautiful moth, so aptly named by Professor Comstock, "the crinkled flannel moth." The cunning brown caterpillars were placed in a cage here at the insectary, where they fed freely on apple leaves, although they were feeding on quince when found at Worcester, Mass. Since Dr. Packard described the insect in its different stages in 1864, its life-history has been worked out in detail by Dr. Lintner (Ent. Contrib., II., p. 138, 1870), and recently by Dr. Packard (Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. for 1894, p. 275). In this last paper Dr. Packard has described and figured in detail the extra two pairs of abdominal legs (seven pairs in all) possessed by the caterpillars, and some curious lateral glandular processes.

It is now our practice here at the insectary to photograph, so far as possible, every stage, phase, and habit of any insect that we may study. It is not often, however, that we have as good a subject as the crinkled flannel moth proved to be. The main object of this note is to introduce some of the lifelike pictures we were able to secure of this interesting and beautiful insect.

As shown at *d* on the plate, three of the cunning little caterpillars posed for their photograph, which represents their natural size and brings out their characteristic appearance much better than any other figures we have seen. They spun their tough brown cocoons (represented natural size at *a* on the plate), with the tightly fitting and ingenious door at one end, on September 5th. Upon prying open the door of one cocoon, the male pupa (shown natural size at *b* on the plate) was revealed. As the cage was kept in our warm office, the development of the insect was doubtless abnormally accelerated, for on December 21st and 24th the pupæ pushed open the little doors, worked their way nearly out of the cocoon, and the moths emerged. We aimed our "Premo" at one of the

male moths as it was resting quietly and naturally on the muslin cover of the cage, with the result as shown at *c* on the plate. We were somewhat loath to kill such a pretty, daintily bedecked creature, but — well, he now fills an honoured place in our collection here at the University. Figure *c* on the plate well represents this pretty creature (twice natural size) as he now looks in the collection. Imagine the lighter portions of the figure to be of a delicate straw-yellow colour and the darker waves and crinkles of a rich brown shade, and you have a faint conception of this crinkled flannel moth.

I do not know that the insect has ever done enough damage to make it of economic importance. It certainly has a wide range of food plants, as shown by Mr. Beutenmüller (*Ent. Americana*, III., 180), who lists twenty-five different plants, and the cranberry has since been added in Massachusetts. Briefly stated, its life-history seems to be as follows: The eggs are laid about July 1, and hatch in a week or ten days; the caterpillars feed during July and August, pupating in September; **some of the moths may emerge in the fall, but doubtless most of them hibernate as pupæ**, the moths appearing in June and some laying their eggs.

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#### TORONTO BRANCH OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

It is with much gratification that we announce the formation of a branch of our Society in Toronto. In the month of February last a number of entomologists in Toronto, feeling their isolation and need of co-operation, met together and decided to form an organization for the promotion of the study of entomology. They accordingly established "The Toronto Entomological Society," with Mr. E. V. Rippon as President, and Mr. Arthur Gibson, Secretary. Regular meetings have been held on the first and third Fridays of each month, and recently a room has been engaged at 451 Parliament Street, where the books and collections are kept and the meetings held, and which is open at all times for the use of the members. For the last ten months the Society has been very successful and its members full of enthusiasm; much satisfactory work has been accomplished, and great pleasure has been derived by the members from meeting with kindred spirits, comparing specimens, discussing questions that arise from time to time, and giving and receiving much assistance in many ways.

Recently the desirability of affiliating with the old-established Entomological Society of Ontario was brought before the members, and after