

THE LARVA AND PUPA OF MICRODON MEGALOGASTER SNOW.
(DIPTERA.)

BY CHARLES T. GREENE, *Bureau of Entomology.*

While collecting on May 5, 1922, three and one-half miles west of Falls Church, Virginia, the writer found a nest of the ant *Formica fusca* subspecies *subsericea* Say.¹ A careful examination revealed two larvae of *Microdon megalogaster* Snow and five empty pupae cases from last year. The material is in the collection of the United States National Museum.

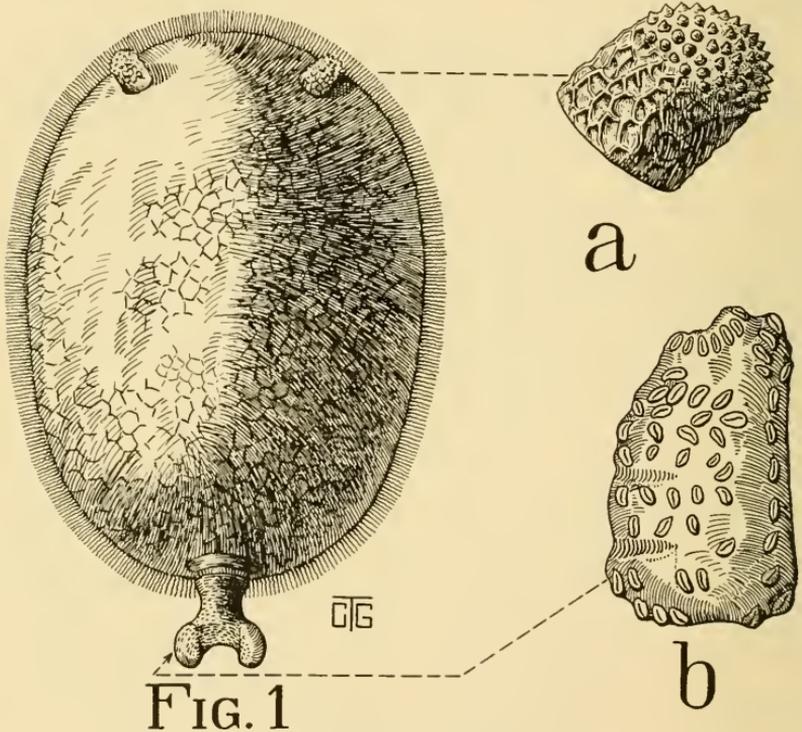


FIG. 1

Microdon megalogaster Snow.

Fig. 1, a, b.

Larva.—Large, dull, brownish red with the surface faintly reticulate; about three-fourths as wide as long and the height nearly equal to the width; on the lateral edge are two rows, one above the other, of crinkly, bristle like, reddish yellow hairs which entirely encircle the larva. Anterior spiracles wanting. Posterior spiracles prominent and forked at the apex, located just above the lateral edge, where the dorsum and venter meet; they are round with concave sides, the smaller diameter in the middle; they are located on a circular elevation, only slightly raised above the surface; where the spiracles join this elevation there

¹Determination by Dr. W. M. Mann.

is a row of small, sharp ridges encircling the spiracles, these ridges resemble the teeth in a cog or ratchet; the body of the spiracles is a dull, brownish yellow with fine red lines or dashes transversely; underneath the brownish yellow surface the surface is reddish black and finely reticulate; transversely across the apex the small red dashes are much broader and more prominent; the stigmal plates are reddish yellow, shining, much wider at the base than the apex; they are separated by a space a little more than the width of one plate; there are numerous, small, elliptical ridges or elevations along the upper surface of each is a longitudinal slit; the ridges are scattered over the surface of the stigmal plate (see drawing, Fig. 1-b). Venter deep reddish.

Pupa.—Like the larva with the following exceptions. Color is slightly darker; anterior spiracles appeared and are located about half way between the venter and the dorsum and at about the apical sixth; separated by a space about equal to four times the height of one spiracle; height of each spiracle about equal to one and one-half times the diameter; spiracles are cylindrical, dark red and deeply reticulate on the sides; apical surface a little more yellowish and with numerous close set cone shaped tubercles. (See drawing, Fig. 1-a.)

Length 10.5 mm.; width 8 mm.; height 5.75 mm.

Description from two specimens collected and reared by the writer. Larvae collected May 5, 1922, pupated May 6 and two adults emerged May 17, 1922.

DISTRIBUTION RECORD ON MACRONOCTUA ONUSTA GROTE. (LEPIDOPTERA.)

BY C. C. HAMEL, *Bureau of Entomology.*

While thinning out my twelve year old bed of Iris (*Iris germanica* Linn.) on July 1, 1922, at Amherst, Lorain County, Ohio, two small patches were noticed in which the leaves had become a blackish color, drooping and very slimy to the touch. At the base of the leaves, close to the rootstalks, there were holes from which hung a brownish-colored frass held together by webbing. Upon cutting open the stalk there was found a whitish translucent larva approximately 20 mm. in length with a brown head, and with black spots in lateral rows. This, upon being exposed to the sunlight, immediately attempted to escape and was captured only with difficulty. All the other rootstalks in the immediate vicinity were at once destroyed, but only two additional larvae were found. The tunnels did not extend into the rootstalks but were confined to the base of the leaves. As it was feared that this might be the larvae of the dreaded European corn borer (*Pyrausta nubilalis* Hubn) the specimens were submitted to Mr. Carl Heinrich of the U. S. National Museum, who determined them as *Macronoctua onusta* Grote. No previous record of the occurrence of this insect in Ohio could be found by the writer in the literature thereon.
