

TABLE 1. Results of oviposition and larval transfer studies with *Callosamia promethea* (Drury).

Female Number	Number Eggs Deposited	Number Eggs Hatched	Percent Hatch	Number Larvae <sup>1</sup> Transferring to Food Plant	Percent <sup>2</sup> Transferring
1	73	69	94.5	68	98.5
2	71	65	91.5	55	84.6
3	87	82	94.2	45	54.8
4	77	69	86.6	66	95.6
5	57	57	100.0	49	85.9
6	92	91	98.9	46	50.5
7	57	54	94.7	50	92.5
8	16	15	93.7	15	100.0
9	34	32	94.1	28	87.5
10	52	52	100.0	42	80.7
11	40	39	97.5	37	94.8
12	48	44	91.6	41	93.1
	704	669	95.0	542	81.0

<sup>1</sup> By second day after hatching.

<sup>2</sup> Number on food plant/number hatched.

vant data. The wild cherry cuttings, containing the 1st-instar larvae, were placed in rearing cages along with other colonized *C. promethea* larvae and no further records of this group of experimental larvae were kept.

We have concluded from the results obtained with this modified procedure (Table 1) that it is an effective and efficient method for handling eggs and 1st-instar larvae of *C. promethea*. Of the eggs that hatched (95%), 81.0% of the larvae migrated to the food plants within two days. We consider this percent transfer to be very acceptable, in view of the fact that we were able to obtain 542 1st-instar larvae on food plants in rearing containers with only a minimum of effort on our part.

We have also found that this procedure gives acceptable results in obtaining eggs and 1st-instar larvae for the indoor colonization of *Antheraea polyphemus* (Cramer) and *Eupackardia calleta* (Westwood), but we have not collected any detailed experimental data for the transfer of these species to food plants.

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#### HYPOSOTER FUGITIVUS (ICHNEUMONIDAE) PARASITIC WITHIN MEGALOPYGE OPERCULARIS LARVAE (MEGALOPYGIDAE)

The puss caterpillar, *Megalopyge opercularis* (J. E. Smith), is quite important from the medical standpoint since it is highly poisonous.

On collecting larvae of this species from oak trees (*Quercus*) in New Orleans at the end of June 1976, some were noticed to be distinctly underdeveloped and quiescent. The latter were attached to leaves and measured only 7-8 mm. Most

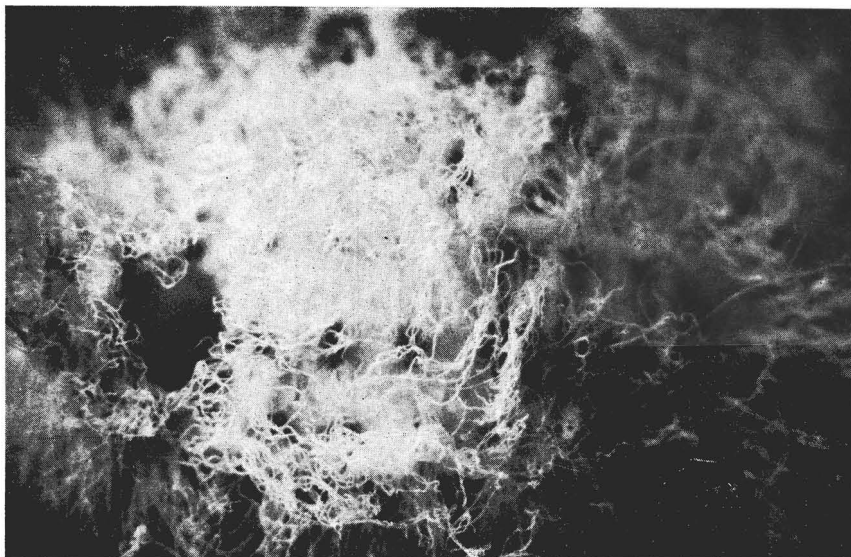


Fig. 1. Remains of parasitized, young caterpillar of *Megalopyge opercularis* showing the hole from which the adult *Hyposoter fugitivus* emerged.

other larvae found at that time measured ca. 20 mm in length. All the larvae were transferred to artificial diet. Three days later, two adults of *Hyposoter fugitivus* (Say) appeared in the container. On the examination of the larvae the parasitized ones were found. Nothing was left of the host except transparent cuticle attached to the leaf of the host plant. There was a 1.5 mm hole between the hairs from which the adult wasp emerged (Fig. 1). The wasp is parasitic on young puss caterpillars. Parasitism apparently resulted in the paralysis and death of the larva, which accounts for their underdevelopment. The parasite pupated within the host and emerged as adult.

Cocoons of puss caterpillar are known to be parasitized by an ichneumonid wasp. However, this is the first record of an ichneumonid wasp parasitic on the larvae of this host.

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#### WOODPECKER FEEDING ON *CALLOSAMIA PROMETHEA* (SATURNIIDAE) COCOON

About midday on 15 March 1975, while on a combined bird-walk and cocoon hunt along Bean Creek, near Morenci in Lenawee Co., Michigan, I observed a Downy Woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens medianus* (Swainson), feeding on a live *Callosamia promethea* Drury cocoon. The day was bright, although cloudy, with temperatures in the forties—ideal weather for such activities. My attention was