However, the current year's apical growth was usually untouched (Fig. 4). Even after larvae have left the tree, the white exuviae on the branches implicate E. ovata as the principal defoliator. The alder sawfly, Hemichroa crocea (Fourc.) was not available for comparison, but defoliation by E. ovata can easily be separated from that by two chrysomelid beetles, Pyrrhalta punctipennis (Mannerheim) and the alder flea beetle, Altica ambiens (LeConte). The beetles chew holes in a leaf, at first leaving even the thinnest veins intact, while E. ovata consumes the fine veins (Fig. 3) and often so completely skeletonizes a leaf that only the mid rib and main secondary veins remain (Fig. 5).

A few late instar larvae were found in the field as

late as October 18, 1969. The last instar larva drops without feeding from the tree on the same day as the final moult, and burrows into the soil where it forms a cocoon within 5 cm from the surface. Dissection of 30 cocoons throughout the winter disclosed only prepupae until the first 2 weeks of May when further development became evident.

We found no parasites or evidence of parasitism throughout the study.

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RESPIRATION AND CIRCULATION

Compiled and edited by P. L. ALTMAN and D. S. DITTMER

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