

LARVA AUSTRALASIÆ.



Si quid ab externa facie colligendum sit, e Sphingum familia esse dicamus larvam quam depinximus, notabilem admodum cauda seu extremo corporis articulo, capiti feroci simillimo, cui os latum, oculi nigri, magni, et minaces, benigne forsan a natura dato ad absterrendos hostes. Cum hujusce nec non aliorum plurimorum animalium Australiacorum manca adhuc nec satis explorata sit historia, nihil pro certo affirmare ausim nisi quod habitu seu forma generali larvæ *Sphingis populi* affinis esse videatur larva Australasiæ. Ostendit tabula naturalem magnitudinem.

AUSTRALASIAN CATERPILLAR

The caterpillar here represented, which, so far as can be judged from its general appearance, is the larva of some species of Sphinx, is remarkable for the singular appearance of the tail or terminal joint of its body which is so formed as to form a striking

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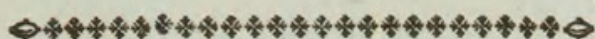
resemblance to a formidable head, with wide mouth, and black prominent eyes. This peculiarity is perhaps in the Nature for the security of the caterpillar, which may thus be enabled to escape its pursuers, like that of many other caterpillars, as yet unknown, and which it is not possible to describe.



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AUSTRALASIAN CATERPILLAR.



The caterpillar here represented, which, so far as can be judged from its general appearance, is the larva of some species of *Sphinx*, is remarkable for the singular appearance of the tail or terminal joint of the body, which is so formed as to bear a striking resemblance to a formidable head, with wide mouth, and black prominent eyes. This particularity is perhaps a provision of Nature for the security of the insect against some of its enemies, which may thus be deterred from attacking it during its larva state. Its particular history, however, like that of many other Australasian animals, is as yet unknown, and it can only be added, that in its general habit it is allied to the larva of the *Sphinx Populi*. It is represented on the plate in its natural size,



Shaw, George. 1803. "The Australian Caterpillar, Larva australasiæ [Pl. 578]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 14(CLXVI), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.311022>.

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