

CREATION SINGS...

Providence



Credit: **Stewart Dunlop**: Insects/
Invertebrates

I saw a small circular disc that was able to move...what's going on? This was the result of a puparium of the larva of *Heterarthrus fiora*, a leaf-mining sawfly.

Firstly, the female sawfly has flown to the correct tree (Sycamore) and has laid a single egg on the leaf. The larva hatches from the egg and proceeds to eat the inside of the leaf without puncturing the upper or lower surface, just feeding on the internal cellular tissue of the leaf. It moves around, excavating the tissue and feeding on it until it has eaten enough to grow to full size. Once the larva has grown to full size, it proceeds to create a perfectly circular portion of the mine with a border which is the thickness of the leaf. Then it waits. Once the leaf

material has dried out, the disc loosens and drops to the ground, with the larva inside it, like a parachute. Once on the ground, the larva jumps at the edge of the disc, making it move. This enables the larva to find a place to pupate safely away from predators and parasites. I, along with many others, find this fascinating in itself. But what I see in all of this in nature is God's provision (not some infinitesimally small random chance!).

Consider that God has prepared for us a place where we should be. What He wills for us is perfect, Rom 12v2, and our job is to respond to it: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" 1 Thess 5v18; for we know according to Psa 138:8, "The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me". All we have to do is follow His leading, like the sawfly, to go where everything is ready for us to grow. The leaf is already prepared, He took years growing it on a tree, and it has a sufficiently strong upper and lower surface (Cuticle and Epidermis) to afford protection. Other kinds of leaves do not have this and are therefore unsuitable.

Have **we** found **our** leaf yet?

God not only provided protection but also food. Like the provision in the wilderness, “Our fathers did eat manna in the desert” John 6v31, God always provides for His people: “The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing” Ps 34v10. Do you, the reader, know our God, have you experienced His provision and are you resting in the promise of that provision? Unfortunately I know I don’t always REST in Him...I like a wee worry session!

From this place of growth, He lets us down gently by seeking to move us on in His work. There are times when one phase ends and something new awaits, like a minister answering a call to another congregation, but God speaks to us all in such terms and we need to respond. In due season the disc falls from its position and moves to new ground where there are so many different issues to face. However, God gives us the ability, like the disc bumped and cajoled by the pupa to a place of warmth and safety, to be able to move into a place where we can develop into something new. The pupa can only crawl and bump along, but when it is **transformed by God it can FLY!**

Have we mounted up on wings as eagles (Isa 40 v 31)? Not just when we are weary but when we have learned to soar above the storms of life, not allowing them to batter us, but rather, to know safety and security in a relationship with our Father who provides food for us, shelter and a place of safety — “...my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast” Ps 57v1. We know calamities will come, but here is how we can handle them — together with GOD!

His provision on earth is **astounding**, even for a small sawfly — just imagine, if that’s even possible, what His heavenly provision will be (John 14v2)!

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him Ps 37v7.

Shelter under His wings Ps 57v1.

Mount up on wings as eagles Isa 40 v 31.