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NEW HISTORIES AND SPECIES IN HYDRÆCIA.

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(Continued from Vol. XXXIII., p. 68.)

In searching out the boring larvæ of the Noctuid genus *Hydræcia*, that large and showy species, *speciosissima*, has continued to prove a decided enigma. This great tawny fellow, with its distinctive white spots, must in the early stages leave some flagrant evidence of its whereabouts behind, yet try as we may all efforts seem in vain, and the conclusion was finally reached that Rye could not number this species in its local list. So the few records of its capture are looked up, and the determination is made to have a trial elsewhere. In 1868, Grote and Robinson described this species, together with *inquesita*, under the generic term *Gortyna* (Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. I., 342), and relate receiving their types from Seekonk, Rhode Island. Knowing the tenacity with which a colony clings to a favourite resort, a couple of days in July, 1900, were taken for a flying trip to that place; the writer believing that should conditions yet remain favourable, the desiderata might still be found. Not being down on ordinary maps, it was inferred Seekonk might be some rural hamlet, perchance having the good fortune to remain unchanged all these years. But this ancient township, so strongly associated with Puritan days and Roger William episodes, has now merged into a suburb of the progressive city of Providence, and our hopes sank as we sped in electric cars through its byways. But hold! On passing some shady nooks, do we see aright? Yes, there is that brown, withered fern leaf—*inquesita* is here sure enough. It cannot deceive us now, and soon there are plenty more in sight. At any rate, here is one of Mr. Grote's friends, but then *inquesita* has a rather ubiquitous food-plant, and may be expected anywhere, while *speciosissima* is an unknown quantity entirely.

The following day the hunt is on in full vigour, but, search as we may, borers are scarce, in no way approaching the numbers of our home haunts.