

THE NOCTUIDÆ OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
COMPARED.

(Fifth Paper.)

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Tribe *Orthosiini*.

The vestiture is woolly, and in this lies a distinguishing character from the *Agrotini* and *Hadenini*, which some genera much resemble, while the body is hardly tufted; the rather broad thorax has sometimes a median ridge. The colours of the moths are often shades of brown, red and yellow, like the autumn foliage, in which many of the hibernating species hide. The eyes of the first genera are hairy; in several the tibiæ are spinose, the reverse being usually the case. Whether our, mostly western, species allied to *Perigrapha cincta* are strictly congeneric, I have not been able to decide. *Acerra normalis* has simple antennæ in the male; the ornamentation in most cases suggests the relationship. There are two European species of *Perigrapha* against seven related North American species. The genus *Tæniocampa* has twenty-two described American species and only eleven European; among these is one, *alia*, identical. I have not a particle of doubt that for this genus the term *Graphiphora* Hübner, must be retained. My efforts to place the generic nomenclature upon a final basis, by fixing the types in 1874, has met with thoughtless opposition and incorrect criticism. The question of whether Hübner, or others, held our modern (supposed by empirics infallible) ideas upon genera, is quite beside the question of the oldest and therefore proper name for a genus. I have exposed this sort of reckless criticism in the second part of my Check List, 1875, 1876. Only my desire to avoid contention and to enable a comparison of our fauna by the use of the same terms, has induced me to cede the present instance, because the name *Graphiphora* taken from Hübner (to whom we owe almost *all* the leading generic names in the Noctuidæ), had been mis-applied. I think, now, I may have been wrong in this, and that *Graphiphora* should be used, as I originally proposed, with the type *Gothica*, and *Tæniocampa* rejected. Only in this way shall we obtain a stable nomenclature, and the European catalogues must conform, if nearer conclusions are to be arrived at, and lists are to be useful beyond a mere stringing of the different species.