

just what I think, too, and I have made two journeys in the west, and a great many in Europe and Asia in search of this knowledge; whilst Mr. Edwards, so far as I know, has never seen an *Ceneis* alive anywhere or any collection of them at all comparable with those I have seen and have studied specially before writing.

As to his criticism on the value of the clasper I do not think he has any practical experience of the matter, but I will leave Mr. J. Edwards to answer him on that point:—

“I desire to say something on so much of Mr. W. H. Edwards’s criticism above-mentioned, as relates to the employment of characters derived from the male genitalia and the comparative table, as these are the points with which I was more particularly concerned in the preparation of Mr. Elwes’s paper on *Ceneis*.

“My business was simply to examine the material upon which the paper was based, and to ascertain how many kinds there were capable of definition with reasonable accuracy; and I endeavoured to give expression to those characters which separate any given kind from all the other kinds under review at that time, and to contrast these characters in a workable form in my “*Conspectus specierum*.” The question of the soundness or otherwise of my work I am content to leave to the judgment of any competent students who may be disposed to make an honest attempt to determine described species of *Ceneis* by the characters there laid down. A comparative table may be very useful to many students without necessarily pleasing everybody. Mr. W. H. Edwards gives it as his opinion that characters drawn from the male genitalia are valueless, but I find in practice that they have a value equivalent to any other morphological peculiarity, and that value is, of course, in direct proportion to their constancy in a series of individuals. Perhaps the best statement of the exact value of these characters, so far as Lepidoptera are concerned, is that by Prof. John B. Smith in his *Revision of Agrotis* (Bull. 38, U. S. Nat. Mus., p. 7.), which I quote here as it is well worth reprinting:— ‘The study of the primary sexual characters is one of the most valuable guides in the recognition of species. The structures are within my experience absolutely invariable within specific limits, and species otherwise closely allied are sometimes well separated by these characters. They have proved invaluable in settling questions of the identity of American and European forms so closely allied as to be considered races, and in several instances they have proved the identity or distinctness of