

The fact that the under surface in *fraxini* is bright and white as in *relicta*, while the upper surface of the wings is more obscure than in the American species, is worthy of note. I think that if we may localize the features of variation in markings as occurring first on the upper surface of the wings, especially on the primaries, we may draw some conclusions as to the relationship between different species of Noctuidæ from the degree of similarity beneath. I have elsewhere shown that the variability of *C. relicta* in the tone of the fore wings is not a sexual character.

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### NOTES ON SOME OF THE GENERA OF MR. SCUDDER'S "SYSTEMATIC REVISION."

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After reading Mr. Peabody's paper in the August number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, I determined to verify some of the measurements given as characterizing Mr. Scudder's genera, as it seemed hardly possible that many of the numerical relations there given should prove absolutely constant; and after examining a large number of species and specimens, these relations proved variable beyond all expectation. The measurements of the venation were taken directly from the wings by the aid of a thin sheet of transparent gelatine ruled with lines  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch apart, the wings having been bleached by Mr. Dimmock's admirable process.

Recently I have carefully gone over the measurements of the same specimens, of the groups *Lycæides*, *Glaucopsyche* and *Cyaniris*, with a microscope, measuring by means of an eye-piece micrometer and mechanical stage to the nearest thousandth of an inch, and find that the former measurements coincide sufficiently with these to warrant confidence in accepting the remainder as substantially correct.

The results prove that the venation of the wing is very variable even in specimens of the same species, and that no generic distinctions whatever can be based on slight differences in the proportionate length of the cell and wing, or the origin of the first and second branches of the subcostal nervures of primaries.

I have reduced the proportions of these parts mentioned by Mr. Scudder to percentages, so that comparison will be easy. The species