

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS UPON BOMBYX CUNEA,
DRURY, ETC.

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To make my way clear I beg to state the objects I had in view in writing the article that appeared under my name in the number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST for last May. They were these :

I.—To establish the identity of the *Spilosoma Antigone* of Strecker with the *Spilosoma congrua* of Walker.

II.—To show that Dr. Riley's series of wings in Fig. 87, *Packard's Forest Insects*, does not afford a proof conclusive that *cunea*, *textor*, *punctata* and *punctatissima* are one and the same species of insect.

III.—To bring into notice a *Spilosoma* which answers to the figure given by Drury of his *Bombyx cunea*.

I.—It is admitted that *Antigone* and *congrua* are identical. I need not say anything more on that point.

II.—I have always looked upon Riley's series of wing-figures with distrust—much as I should regard a catena brought forward by a controversialist to support an erroneous opinion ; and, in the paper I have mentioned, I endeavoured to show the weakness of his position by stating that a like series of wing-figures could be taken from specimens of moths raised from "black ground-feeding larvæ." It has been said "*there is no doubt at all of the identity of all these forms*," and if a positive assertion could have settled the matter, it would have been settled ; but a chain is not stronger than its weakest links, and Sir James Smith *was not sure* of the identity of *punctatissima* with Drury's *congrua*, and Dr. Ottolengui gives voice to a doubt, which others beside himself have felt, and says : "Is it possible that the immaculate and the spotted forms of *cunea* may be distinct?" (By these "forms" I understand him to mean *punctatissima* and *textor*.)

Smith and Abbot give us a picture of their *Phalena punctatissima*. There is an irregularly spotted male insect, a spotless female, and a larva feeding upon a sprig of mulberry. Quite a fancy sketch ! And this is the description appended :

"Ph. *Bombyx elinguis*, alis deflexis corporeque niveis nigro punctatis, thorace utrinque lunula nigra."

And under this is a note (the italics are mine) :