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MICRO-LEPIDOPTERA.

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It may be necessary to state that the names which I have used for the different nervures of the wings in these papers are those used by Dr. Clemens, and differ somewhat from those in use by European entomologists.

Various means may be used for the purpose of denuding the wings of their scales, so as to render the neuration distinct. The wing may be pressed slightly between two pieces of moistened bibulous paper, and the process repeated until the wing is sufficiently denuded; or, if this does not denude it sufficiently, the few remaining scales may be removed with a camel's or sable hair brush. M. Guenée moistens the paper with gum water. Soft wax may be used instead of the paper. Dr. Clemens' plan was to moisten a slip of glass, and then, placing the wing upon it, remove the scales with a moistened sable hair brush from one side, and then, turning it over, remove them in the same way from the other side.

But, with the greatest care and skill, there is danger of injuring the wings of the small moths, particularly of breaking off their tips, and especially if the wing is dry. And all of these plans require a great deal of time.

I have found the following plan preferable, as requiring less time and skill and being equally effective. Lay the wing upon a glass slip (e. g. a microscopic slide) covering it with a piece of thin covering glass (e. g. a thin glass cover for microscopic objects). Drop on the glass slip, so that it will flow under the slide, one or two drops of solution of potash or soda, and hold it over a lamp-flame until it begins to boil, removing it at the first ebullition. If boiled too long, the more delicate nervules may be obliterated, and if there is too much liquid, the wing may, by the boiling, become folded, so that it will be spoiled. The finer nervules may also be obliterated by allowing the wing to remain too long in the liquid. But if proper care has been taken in these respects, the glass slip may be removed from the lamp to the stage of the microscope, and the neuration