

Some of our finest moths, both as regards size and beauty of form and decoration, belong to this family, while it includes many small and plainly colored insects, some of which have females which never possess wings, and never move away from the cocoons in which they have passed through the pupa state.

These facts seem to show that, the Bombycidae, as classified in America, are rather a heterogeneous collection of insects, whose claims to be included in one family are open to question. Packard, whose synopsis is the best so far published, divides it into the following sub-families; some of these, however, in Europe are given the family rank.

LITHOSINÆ. All small moths, with the wings finely scaled, and generally day-fliers. *Lithosia*, the typical genus, is but poorly represented in Eastern America, there being only one or two species found here, while fourteen are found in England alone. The larvæ of this genus usually feed on lichens. To this sub-family belong the *Crocotas*, also *Euphanessa mendica* and *Deiopeia bella*. The caterpillars are generally a little hairy, and most of the species spin thin silken cocoons.

ARCTIIDÆ. A large and well known group. The moths are of medium size, and some of them beautifully colored, hence their common name of Tiger Moths. Caterpillars generally very hairy, and make soft cocoons, in which they interweave their hairs with silk. Their supply of the latter is not large. The principal genera are *Arctia*, *Spilosoma*, *Callimorpha*, *Hyphantria*, &c. Some of the larvæ are injurious to fruit trees.

DASYCHIRÆ. The Liparidæ of European authors. Packard restricts this sub-family to *Orgyia*, and a few other genera. The caterpillars of *Orgyia* are highly ornamented, and spin thin silken cocoons. The female moths are wingless.

COCHLIDÆ. Cochliopodidæ of Europe. Small moths with curious slug-like larvæ, which spin cocoons almost globular in form, and of a gluey appearance, the silk being more of a gum than a fibre. This sub-family has some fourteen genera and twenty-eight species in Packard's Synopsis, but only a few of them are found in Canada.

PSYCHIDÆ. A small group of diminutive moths, not found in the Eastern States or Canada. They are closely related to the preceding sub-family.

PTILODONTES. A numerous sub-family, answering as a whole to the *Cuspidates* of Newman's British Moths, although the larvæ of some of our