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THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE BOMBYCIDÆ.

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Sub-family *Attacinae*.

The subfulcate primaries ally this group to the *Platypteryginae*, and a certain vague resemblance to the *Geometridæ* may be found in the tendency which the upper surfaces of the wings show to display the same pattern on both wings. The ocelli are absent, the oral structure undeveloped, the hind wings are without frenulum. The species form mostly large cocoons, and the characteristics of the family are pronounced in this sub-family of silk-spinners. The male antennæ are feathered to the tips, each joint bearing a double pectination. The antennæ are comparatively short; in the female the pectinations are shorter. On the fore wings, vein 5 is much closer to 6, than to 4, arising from the upper corner of the cell. The caterpillars are thick and short rather than long, the segments tending to become centrally elevated, with prominent incisions. In the early stages they are bristled; in the later stages of *Platysamia* and *Saturnia*, for instance, characteristic colored warts appear. They are almost polyphagous. Long lists have been given by Mr. Beutenmuller, of the food plants of our common North American forms. Our beautiful *Actias luna* has an Asiatic ally in *A. selene*, and, I conclude, that the genus *Actias* in our fauna must be regarded as a relic of a former Arctic, circumpolar fauna, the more so as it is seen to be absent south of the equator in the New World. Leach's genus *Actias* is older than *Tropæa* of Hübner, which Dr. Packard used, hence I retain it in my Check Lists. We have in California, and again in Texas, species of the European genus *Saturnia*; I have elsewhere drawn attention to the fact that there exists a certain resemblance between the two faunæ, of which this is an instance.