## NOCTUID NOTES.

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*Xylina* Treit. (*Graptolitha* Hübn., Hamps. Cat.).

Amongst the many errors in nomenclature brought to light by Sir George Hampson's most valued work on the Noctuidæ, is one concerning two of our commonest eastern Xylinas.

In 1871 Riley described what he believed to be a very variable species as *X. cinerea*. In 1874 Grote recognized that the name referred to a mixture of species, and choosing a specimen of one of them as a type to hold Dr. Riley's name, described another form as *laticinerea*. In 1879 Prof. Fernald discovered that Walker's *antennata*, which had been described in 1858 from an unknown locality, came from North America, and was the species chosen by Grote to hold Riley's name, which therefore sank. Grote made the reference, and at the same time tentatively separated and described a third form from the group as *cinerosa*. Then Riley, finding *cinerosa* preoccupied in the genus by a European species of Guenée's, cited *Grotei* as the name to be used for Grote's *cinerosa*.

The foregoing is old, and well known, but Sir George Hampson's changes are more recent, and as yet but little known. The European *cinerosa* Gn., has now turned out to be a synonym, and Hampson therefore restores Grote's name in place of the long familiar *Grotei*. But he has also shown us that hitherto Grote's two species have generally stood reversed in collections, and that the large gray-sprinkled species, with whitish contrasting orbicular, and without brown in reniform, is really *cinerosa = Grotei*, and that *laticinerea* is the smaller, less gray, and more common species, of which *Winnipeg* Smith is correctly referred by him as a synonym. I have studied the types of all the above names. The variation is apt to be confusing, and *cinerosa* and *laticinerea* appeared to me to be mixed at the British Museum as elsewhere, but the type of *laticinerea* is figured by Hampson, and a specimen like the type of *cinerosa*, and both figures are easily recognizable. The synonymy now stands :