

THE NOCTUIDÆ OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
COMPARED.

(Sixth Paper.)

BY A. R. GROTE, A. M., BREMEN, GERMANY.

Tribe *Stiriini*.

This tribe is, so far as I know, exclusively American. The thorax is elevated, the patagia usually deflected. The eyes are naked; the front embossed; the legs thinly scaled, with a claw on front tibiæ; the abdomen somewhat short and weak, untufted on dorsum; the wings pointed at tips. The genera seem to fall in between *Calpe* and *Plusia*.* They are: *Basilodes*, *Stiria*, *Stibadium*, *Fala*, *Plagiomimicus*, *Acopa*. The genus *Cirrhophanus* probably belongs to the *Heliothini*; we do not know the larva, but the moth is allied to *Chariclea delphinii*, by the Hübnerian character of the pattern of ornamentation. It is probable, also, that *Chamaclea* is best placed among the *Heliothians*.

Folenta, referred here by me (CAN. ENT., XV., 75), based upon an erroneous identification of Mr. Morrison's *Tepperi*, with my *Plag. Richi*, may be related to one of the species figured by Hübner in the "Zutragee," under *Schinia*. I saw the type, but was not able to examine it for generic characters. It seemed to me to be a faded example of a southern form of *Plagiomimicus*, which I possessed, narrower than *Pityochromus*, of a delicate olive green, with a frontal cup-like excavation and a claw on the fore tibiæ. Mr. Smith assures us that *Tepperi* has the fore tibiæ unarmed; consequently, I described my species as *P. Richi*. Finally, Mr. Smith's *Cerathosia* may belong here. This moth has the false appearance of a *Psecadia*. I have shown that it is not a micro. neither is it an Arctian, "next to *Utetheisa*," as stated by Mr. Smith. It has a globose thorax; a frontal horn, thinly scaled legs with a claw on front tibiæ. The shape

*In reference to the question of rank in the Lepidoptera and to a former paper of mine in these pages, I would state that, while from morphological grounds, we must consider the four-footed butterflies as the highest, the sequence within the family must be decided on comparative grounds. It may be that the *Satyrine* are the lowest sub-family group of the *Nymphalidæ*, but they must be nevertheless classed with the family. The characters by which the butterflies approach the moths are apparent in all the groups, as might be expected if we consider the moths to represent an older phase of the Lepidoptera. The highest *Nymphalidæ* must be sought for in the tropics; but it may be, that the sequence in our North American fauna is to be inaugurated by the Hackberry butterflies.