

one single feature in this masterful work, namely, the erection of genera (*Ptychotrix*, *Catamempsis*) on secondary sexual characters alone, and this in spite of His Lordship's own statement in his remarks (page 738-9), that such characters are of very doubtful value, and especially so in the Hawaiian fauna, where the most embarrassing plasticity of such characters prevails. Undoubtedly, other sounder structural characters, common to both sexes, could have been found, or if not, the genera are, in the writer's judgment, not justified. To him it seems essential, for a sound appreciation of the natural grouping of the *Microlepidoptera*, that we get away altogether from these superficial characters, however tempting, and rely solely on the more subtle but dependable internal modifications presented in the venation.

In his discussion of the variability of the secondary sexual characters, Lord Walsingham also comments on the variability in the Hawaiian fauna of certain other, normally dependable, generic characters. Some of these the writer is not able to discuss without a more extended study of the fauna than is at present possible; but the one case of instability of venation (in *Diplosara*, Meyrick, pages 646-7), appears to be nothing more than might be expected, or than is found in other unspecialized genera (a similar case is *Monopis*); these conditions do not in the least lessen the value of the venation as a dependable character, only the same importance must not be given to certain fluctuations in generalized families, such as the *Tineidae* and *Hyponomeutidae*, as would be warranted in more crystallized families, such as the *Gelechiidae* or *Ecophoridae*.

The few dissenting opinions on certain details that may be found in the above notes do not detract from the fullest general appreciation of Lord Walsingham's excellent work. It has been an enormous and very difficult study, and he is to be sincerely congratulated on the result, which casts great credit on the author and on his valuable assistant, Mr. J. Hartley Durrant, whose important share in the work is liberally credited by Lord Walsingham.—AUGUST BUSCK.

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