

NOTE ON ACRONYCTA CRISTIFERA, WALK.

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Thanks to the identifications of Prof. Smith with the British Museum collection which contains Walker's types, we have now a certainty as to the correct names of almost all our species. It is clear from different remarks in the catalogue that under Mr. Butler's rearrangement of the material some shifting of the specimens described by Walker has taken place, and this shifting has equally certainly led here or there to an accidental shifting of label. I suggest as a possible solution to the *Acronycta cristifera* mystery, that the specimen B. Mus. Lists, IX., 230, 1856, marked: "*W. Orillia, West Canada, from Mr. B. 's collection,*" and determined as *Mamestra brassicae* by Walker, may now figure as the "type" of *Acronycta cristifera*, Walk., and the real type of the latter, which I saw in its original place, may have become misplaced.

In 1881, before Mr. Butler had interfered with, or Prof. Smith had seen the British Museum Collection, I examined the sole specimen and apparent "type" of *Acronycta cristifera*, Walk. It was in fair condition, with clean cut wings and somewhat narrow and tufted body parts. It belonged to a species unknown to me, of a seeming peculiar northern type; the specimen was labelled as from St. Martin's Falls, Hudson Bay. I examined it carefully, and in my memory can see the specimen before me now. It was a dark stone-gray species, the concolorous primaries without any warm tinting shaded here and there with whitish, but quite obscurely, and allowing the usual lines and narrowly outlined stigmata to be clearly made out. The stigmata were defined and nearly concolorous, not contrasting. The insect reminded me mostly of the species described by Morrison as *Acronycta aspera*. I judged the specimen to have naked eyes, but had no opportunity of verifying this. The hind wings were concolorous, perhaps a little darker. There was not a trace of any reddish-brown, or brighter shading or colour. The whole insect was of a stony, somewhat fuscous or sordid dusty gray-hue. In my Illustrated Essay I noted this examination of mine as follows: "The type from Hudson Bay is not an *Acronycta*. The abdomen is tufted; the species is dark stone-grey, with kidney-shaped reniform, and seems a Hadenoid form unknown to me," l. c. 38. Under these circumstances I was greatly surprised to find by Prof. Smith's Revision that Mr. Butler had referred the specimen as belonging to *Mamestra lubens*; still more so that Prof.