

years, took the next three specimens, one of which he has lately exchanged to Mr. Salle. Again, on Dec. 31st, '72, under some board traps in dry grass, near water, my first specimen occurred, and for three succeeding days a unique was taken. Their habits are probably gregarious, living on the ground, and as the collecting grounds in the vicinity of New Orleans are limited, owing to swamps, they may be found to occur more plentifully in Northern La. They are very active and graceful, taking alarm at the least noise, and run with great rapidity, keeping the antennae in constant vibration; when placed in a collecting bottle containing Cyanide of Potassium, they would seize hold of some other insect and proceed to drag it off, imitating certain species of ants. The drug, however, quickly quiets them.

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## ON MR. SCUDDER'S SYSTEMATIC REVISION OF SOME OF THE AMERICAN BUTTERFLIES.

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[PAPER NO. 2.]

Since it is conceded that the law of priority is invariable in its application to zoological nomenclature, it remains for us to apply it to the determination of our Butterflies. That some inconveniences may arise from the correction of errors, does not militate against our desire to be right. The question is, are Mr. Scudder's genera well founded, or, are his names entitled to precedence, not is it convenient for us to use them. Without as yet entering an extended discussion upon the structural characters of our Butterflies, we will briefly notice Mr. Scudder's genera.

1. *Oeneis*, *Hubner* (1816.) The type and first species mentioned under this name by Hubner is *Norna*. While five species are cited under this genus, Hubner refers two more to *Eumenis*, viz. : *allo* and *tarpeja*. But the type of *Eumenis* is *E. autonoe*. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that we must retain *Oeneis* to be correct, while regretting the necessary abandonment of *Chionobas*, so sonorous and accustomed a name. In our North American fauna we have, besides the species cited by Mr. Scudder, *Oen. chryxus* and *Oen. Uhleri*, described under *Chionobas* by Doubleday and Reakirt. *Chionobas Stretchii*, Edw., does not belong to