

No one supposed, and it was absurd to suppose, that anyone was in danger of supposing that Riley figured only moths coming from a black ground-feeding larva.

III.—Concerning Drury's *cunea* and the Quebec *Spilosoma*.

The discussion of the *Cunea* question was not uncalled for, and has not been unprofitable. It is well that so much information on the subject has been brought together. In this respect Mr. Lyman has done good service. We can now see clearly the slight basis on which the theory of the identity of *cunea* and *punctatissima* has been built, viz., two uncertain references, made long ago, by two old-world entomologists, and the fact that *punctatissima* is a variable species. The references are: "Whether this be the *cunea* of Mr. Drury or not" (Sir James Smith), and "There seems little reason for doubting that this is identical with the *Phaëna punctatissima* of Abbott and Smith" (Westwood). We have no reason to think that either of the writers had seen Drury's types. Upon so trivial a foundation the theory has been built!

Mr. Lyman thinks Smith and Abbot's figure of *punctatissima* admirable, and that it shows perfect bilateral symmetry. Let us see! In the left secondary of the figure there is a black spot near the tip, and behind it, running towards the body, are two others; on the right secondary the three spots run in a line along the outer margin; and this is what Mr. Lyman calls "perfect bilateral symmetry"! He objects to my expression "fancy sketch." Is it then a *reality* that, in the favoured South, imagoes and larvæ of *punctatissima* may be seen on mulberry bushes at one time?

I had overlooked Drury's description of *cunea*. I am glad to read it—it strengthens my case. Mr. Lyman gives it in full on page 122. I will quote the English of the description to save the reader the trouble of reference, and that there may be no mistake as to terms. I give the Old Country meanings of ash-coloured and tip:

"Ash-colored, a., between brown and gray, like the bark of ash".....*Reid's Dictionary*.

"Tip, the part where the costa meets the hind margin".....*Stainton's Manual*, Vol I., x.

The description is as follows:

"*Upper side*.—Antennæ pectinated and black. There is no appearance of any tongue. Head white. Back and abdomen ash colour.