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RECENT WORK AMONG THE BORERS.

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Since the publication in the September, 1905, number of this journal of my paper entitled "New Gortynas," a number of papers dealing with the same group of moths have appeared, which were naturally of great interest to me.

In the March, 1907, number of the Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc. appeared a paper by Dr. H. G. Dyar, in which a new species was described under the name *Hydræcia stenocelis*, that author apparently using the names *Hydræcia*, *Papaipema* and *Gortyna* interchangeably.

The type of this species I saw during a recent visit to Washington, and it is certainly a very distinct species, which could not be confounded with any other form at present known.

But the papers of most interest to me were those which appeared in the August and September, 1907, numbers of this journal, from the pen of Mr. H. Bird. In these papers the author has described a number of very interesting species, and made a very considerable addition to our knowledge of this group, in which he has for years done so much good work.

Mr. Bird very truly says that the working out of life histories in this genus is a greater contribution to entomological knowledge than the mere description of new forms, and this, I take it, would equally apply in the case of most other genera. But Mr. Bird would not suggest that a species should not be described unless its life history had been previously unravelled, as he has himself described several species of which the early stages are unknown. Moreover, the conditions in this group are very different from those in most other genera, because these having boring larvæ, it is generally easier to find the larvæ than the moths, and in many cases the determination of the moths is difficult unless they have been bred.

In the September number Mr. Bird described the species boring in *Pteris aquilina* under the name *ptervisii*. This species I have had represented in my collection by a single specimen taken by one of our