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COMPARATIVE TABLES FOR THE FAMILIES OF BUTTERFLIES.

BY SAMUEL H. SCUDDER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

The need of a better knowledge of the actual structure of butterflies among those in this country who follow their study, is shown by the persistence with which an antiquated classification is adhered to,—a classification whose only value is historical, which conceals affinities and takes no account of the progress of investigation. In the hope of stimulating the examination of objects and not of books, the following Table for the determination of the four families of butterflies, originally prepared for my forthcoming work on the New England species, is here published. As will be seen, it includes in the analysis every stage of life, and while it intentionally oversteps the boundaries of New England in some respects, it does not, for the earlier stages, pretend to cover the outer field, excepting where it seemed important for some special purpose. Many of the characters here tabulated have never before been pointed out; others are the common property of science; that all characters are exhausted, or that some, and especially those drawn from the earlier stages, may not with increase of information require modification, is by no means maintained.

A. *Imago* of variable size, usually rather slender, with ample wings. Head in a vertical plane, the tongue being inserted opposite the lower half of the eye. Antennæ approximate at the base, the space between them not equalling half the vertical diameter of the eye, the tip of the club rarely curved and never produced to a distinct point. Eyes with no overhanging pencil of bristly hairs, though in rare cases (some *Lycaeninae*) a small tuft of hairs occurs at the base of the antennæ; cornea of eyes not extending over the posterior fourth of the ocellar globe. Front tibiæ rarely (*Papilioninae*) with any epiphysis, and hind tibiæ with only terminal spurs. Inner edge of hind wings rarely (*Papilioninae*) plaited, but