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GEOMETRID NOTES ON THE GENUS HYDRIOMENA, HUB. BY L. W. SWETT, BOSTON, MASS.

As I was unable to identify material in this group, and realizing that the species were badly mixed, I decided to try to straighten them out. First, I was puzzled by the markings, I could find little constancy and every style of variation; secondly, in similarly marked species every variety of colour occurred, which made the specimens so different looking that I did not dare call them the same. Starting with the first species of Hydriomena in Dyar's List, namely, Hydriomena sordidata Fab., I was struck with the variability of colouring and markings, and realized that I must depend on something more constant than markings to separate such an unwieldy mass of specimens. The genitalia, an important character, I was unable to study much, as most of the material at my disposal was loaned, so that I could not proceed very far, but I noticed that the palpi of certain species seemed to be of approximately the same relative length, allowing for variation in size of specimens. This set me on the right path, as I found that by grouping certain species with palpi of the same length I could follow the variations in colour, and that there seemed to be a regular colour scheme in variable species, so that by knowing the colour of the type specimen I could predict the variations to a certain extent that ought to occur under the species. The colour scheme suggested itself to me from a French author's work on another group, and I found I could apply it here. Hydriomena sordidata Fab., or more properly furcat i Thunberg, Diss. Ins. Suec., pt. 1, Dec. 11, 1784, has priority over sordidata Fab., Ent. Syst., III, pt. 2, p. 185, 1794, which my kind friend, Mr. Louis Prout, first points out in the Entomologists' Record (London). Vol. 9, p. 84-87, April, 1897. Hydriomena sordidata Fab. does not become a synonym, as it is a green variety of furcata Thunb., and should be listed so. An excellent figure of furcata is given, tab. 3, No. 10, and it is strange that the older authors did not recognize this. The colour scheme of Hydriomena furcata Thunb. is as follows, and applies to the other variable species: 1, cinereous or gray; 2, greenish; 3, reddish; 4, yellowish; 5, suffused; 6, mesial space white.