

wings are thus distinguished :—That nearest the base, seldom reaching more than half across the wing, is called the *half line*; the next, before the middle of the wing, the *inner line*; then, beyond the middle, the *elbowed line*; and lastly, the *subterminal line*. Of the two spots, or stigmata, the one nearest the base of the wing, is round or oval, and is called the *orbicular spot*; the other is kidney shaped, and is called the *reniform spot*; beneath the former is sometimes a third, of a wedge-shape, called the *claviform spot*.

The Noctuina are divided by M. Guénés, into two main groups, *Trifidæ* and *Quadridæ*.

Of the TRIFIDÆ, the imago is generally of moderate size, sometimes small; palpi short, or of moderate length, with the third joint never long or spatulate; hind wings usually much folded under the fore wings, the inner margins of which often overlap each other in repose; median vein of the lower wing with *three branches*.

Of the QUADRIFIDÆ, the imago has generally broad, sometimes very large wings; palpi always long and ascending, with the third joint long and filiform, sometimes spatulate; hind wings but little folded; the inner margin of the fore wings seldom overlap in repose; median vein of the lower wing with *four branches*.

The TRIFIDÆ, to which belong by far the greater number of our Noctuelites, are subdivided into three sections:—

BOMBYCIFORMES.—Palpi short and stout; legs not long; fore wings rather thick; hind wings slender.

GENUINÆ.—Palpi stout and well-developed; legs robust; fore wings very thick; hind wings slender, generally of dull colors.

MINORES.—Of small size; body slender; legs long and slender; wings broad; fore wings not very thick, triangular; hind wings well developed, often with similar markings and colors to those on the fore wings.

The QUADRIFIDÆ are divided into eight sections, three of which—the *Sericeæ*, *Patulæ*, and *Pseudodeltoideæ*,—are not found in Canada, being confined almost entirely to tropical climates. It is only necessary, therefore, to mention the characteristics of the remaining sections.

VARIEGATÆ.—Size small or moderate. Palpi well developed, often thick. Fore wings angular or denticulate on the inner margin, or with metallic blotches; hind wings of one color, sometimes pale or