

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. VIII.

LONDON, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1876.

No. 2

THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUE BUTTERFLIES OF THE GENUS NOMIADES.

BY SAMUEL H. SCUDDER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Some years ago I proposed* the generic name *Glaucopsyche* for a group of blue butterflies of eastern N. America having a glaucous sheen to the upper surface of their wings: I had not then recognized its strictly generic alliance with a group of similar forms in Europe and on our Pacific slope, which do not all possess this peculiarity, and to which the older generic name *Nomiades* Hübn. must be applied. A recent study of their common structural features, however, shows that *Glaucopsyche* can no longer be retained. Finding that there has been some confusion, at least in the cabinet designations of the species of this group, a brief revision of the same, with comparative descriptions, is here offered.

The species belonging to this group, it may be remarked, all have but a single transverse series of spots upon the under surface of the hind wings (the extra-mesial row), the submarginal markings being wholly obsolete. In the six American species the upper surface of the wings of the male are always blue, more or less broadly and distinctly margined with dark brown, while the wings of the female have this surface dark brown, more or less amply suffused from the base outward with blue.

1. *N. XERCES* (*Lycæna Xerces* Boisid.) In this species the blue on the upper surface of the wings of the male is of a pale tender violet and the margin is neither so black nor so narrow as in the other species, and has a very faint extreme edge of black. The upper surface of the wings of the female is of a little paler brown than in the other species, has a decidedly white, untarnished fringe, and at the base scattered blue scales as in *N. Antiacis*, but extending further from the base; the black outer edge is more distinct than in the female of the other species. Beneath,

* *Syst. Rev. Am. Butt.*, 33.