

dark form, but now find I took both forms in the same seasons. * * * *
 The ♂ antennæ are obviously different, and this has a rusty patch on basal tuft of thorax, and differs also in the anal angle of the primaries and colour of secondaries. These differences are *quite constant* in my series." The antennal difference referred to by Mr. Dod is in the greater length of the pectinations in this new species, and this is accompanied by an even greater difference in the male genitalia. Though fully as large as *xylinoides*, this new species has the male harpes actually smaller, while the clasper and other processes are quite unlike.

HYDROECIA AMERICANA SPEYER, OR HYDROECIA
 ATLANTICA SMITH.

To whom should a species be credited: to the author who names it a variety and declares positively that it is not distinct from another, which he considers the stem, or to the author who first points out the specific characters and establishes its distinctness?

In 1875 Dr. A. Speyer, in his paper on "Europäisch-amerikanische Verwandtschaften," gives first, a list of American species which he considers distinct from European forms, a list of species occurring in both countries, a list of questionable forms, and then elaborates these lists by a series of notes. In the list of species common to both countries, he enumerates *Hydroecia nictitans*, and afterwards points out some minor differences in the series before him, noting that Guenée had previously enumerated most of them. On page 152 of the volume he speaks as follows: "Als eigene Art wird sich die amerikanische Nictitans von der europaischen nicht trennen lassen, da ein völlig durchgreifender Unterschied zwischen beiden fehlt. Eine ausgezeichnete Varietat bildet sie aber jedenfalls."

And then he characterizes his variety as follows:

"Var. b. Americana. Al. ant. lætius latericiis s. fulvis, apice subfalcato. Patr. Amer. Septentr."

We have, then, very clearly established what Speyer thought of the American form. First, he ranges it as identical with the European; next he declares that there is no constant difference between the examples from both countries, hence specific separation is impossible, and, finally, he bases a varietal name on a slight difference in general colour and