

CATALOGUE OF THE LEPIDOPTERA PHALÆNÆ IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM,
Vol. I., Syntomidæ.—By Sir George F. Hampson, Bart., London.
Printed by order of the Trustees, 1898.

This work, on the general plan of the old British Museum catalogues, avoids all the objections that have been urged against that work. The British Museum authorities are especially fortunate in possessing the services of so thorough and accurate a worker as Sir George Hampson. The volumes are really monographs of the families treated, all species that have been described being included, and not only those represented in the British Museum. In this respect the title fails to do the work justice. A set of plates accompanies the volume, but under a separate cover, which is explained on page vii. of the preface. A synoptic table of the genera is given and of the species in each genus, a description of each species with bibliography and the larvæ when known. An introduction of fifteen pages deals with the general characters of the Lepidoptera in all stages. The author recognizes fifty-two families of Lepidoptera, and he has arranged them in the form of genealogical tree. It would take altogether too much space to discuss this tree in full, but it may be said that it presents many good points, as well as others against which objections can be urged. A key to the families follows.

The Syntomidæ of the world are made to comprise one hundred and sixty-eight genera, and eleven hundred and eighty four species, of which by far the greater portion are from the tropics of South America. The family runs into the Arctiidæ, it being stated (page 20) that no very exact lines can be drawn between them. Under these conditions it is not surprising that certain genera are included, which, in the opinion of the reviewer, are Arctiidæ. A large table showing the phylogeny of the genera is given, necessarily without reference to the larval characters, as only about one and one-half per cent. of the larvæ of this family have ever been described. The table is without explanation, except the short discussion on page 21, which refers indirectly to it. The few North American species of the Syntomidæ are arranged as follows :

477 *Cosmosoma auge*, Linn.

569 *Pseudomya minima*, Grt.

It is gratifying to have this species at last placed correctly.

679 *Syntomicida ipomeæ*, Harr.

My partial description of the larva of this species is not referred to.

(Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XXVII., 138.)