

An historical investigation which I made, a few years ago, of the names of the species of *Drasteria*, suggested that perhaps a similar critical study of the early literature of the insect, under discussion might throw some light on the subject and enable one to arrive at an approximately correct synonymy. What little experience I have had in this line of work leads me to believe that there must be much similar critical study before the nomenclature of the moths reaches anywhere near the stability that Mr. Scudder's historical investigations have given to the nomenclature of the butterflies.

In 1810, Haworth described (Lep. Britt., p. 224) *subgothica* from a supposed English specimen; the sale catalogue of Haworth's collection published in 1834 indicates that he had but one specimen. As Haworth's work is very rare (I have not been able to get track of a single copy in this country), and as neither Mr. Grote (CAN. ENT., XXIII., 202) nor Prof. Smith (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 44, p. 81) have ever seen the original description of *subgothica*, the following copy of it (obtained through the kindness of Mr. Champion, Librarian of Ent. Soc. of London) will be of interest and value:

"185. *subgothica*. (The Gothic Dart) alis griseo-fuscis, costa late at dimidiatim, stigmatibusque pallidis.
Habitat in Anglia valde infrequens. In Musæis tribus solum vide.
Expansio alarum. (Mr. Champion gives no figures.)
Descriptio. Præcedentibus (*sagittifera*) affinis absque punctis posticis sagittatis. Stigma anticum, subtriangulare, posticum reniforme: ante et inter hæc arcus niger qui reversus apparit in alis expansis. Stigma teliforme prægrande a basi fere ad medium, sed lineolis duabis divaricatum transversis interruptum. Posticæ pallidæ fimbria fusca."

No figure of the insect is given, and it is not definitely known if the single type specimen exists, thus much depends upon this description. Is there anything in it that does not apply to our American insect? Does it fit any known variety of the European *tritici* better?

Except in Stephens's Catalogue, *subgothica* seems not to again appear in the literature until 1829, when Stephens describes and figures (Ill. Brit. Ent., Haust., II., p. 126, pl. 22, fig. 3) an insect as *subgothica*, which he