

published of them is a Synopsis of the described Lepidoptera of North America, by the Rev. Dr. Morris of Baltimore, containing the Rhopalocera, and the first two groups (Sphingina and Bombycina) of the Heterocera. This volume has conferred a great boon upon Entomologists in general, and especially upon those who are only beginners in the pursuit, inasmuch as it contains descriptions collected from upwards of fifty different works, many of them rare and expensive, and most of them not be met with in this country. As this Synopsis can so easily be obtained, it will be unnecessary to publish in the Journal any descriptions that have already appeared in it. Of the remaining groups, however,—at least of the Canadian species of them,—very little is known; it has occurred to me, therefore, that descriptions of, at all events, the common and more conspicuous ones would assist many in determining some of their specimens, and, at the same time, be a small contribution to Prof. Hineck's very commendable object—the formation of a "Fauna Canadensis."

NOCTUINA, *Staint.*

To this group belong the great majority of our night-flying moths, though some few genera are to be met with even in the full glare of noon-day. They may be recognized in their perfect state by the following characters:—

Body generally stout. Antennæ longer than the thorax, tapering from the base to the tip, filiform, ciliated, or pubescent, more or less bent or twisted, never terminating in a hook; those of the female nearly always simple. Palpi well developed, generally projecting beyond the head. Abdomen almost always extending beyond the hind wings. Legs of variable length, but generally long, especially the posterior pair, which are always longer than the preceding ones; hind tibiæ usually with four long spines. Wings moderately broad, rarely narrow or very broad, never elevated in repose, or rolled about the body; fore wings straight in front, rounded or angular at the tips, oblique on the exterior border; almost always marked with three, sometimes with four, transverse lines, and two spots: the hind wings are more or less folded, and generally covered by the fore wings when in repose.

A full explanation is given in Morris' Synopsis, alluded to above, of the neuration, ordinary markings, etc., of the wings, and the terms used in describing them; it need only be mentioned here therefore, to save the trouble of reference, that the transverse lines on the fore