

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## REVISION OF THE GENUS AGROTIS.

*Dear Sir,*—A few words are called for by Mr. Grote's "remarks" in the March number of the CAN. ENT. The parts critical, of course, require no reply, and are really unexpectedly cordial; nor do the parts explanatory. Mr. Grote asks why I write *heretis*, *badinodes* and *insula*, instead of *herilis*, *badinodis* and *insulsa*. In each instance it is occasioned by an original misreading and mistranscription of the name, which had become so fixed that, often as I had seen and written the names, still persisted and prevented my seeing the error. I am obliged to Mr. Grote for pointing out these cases. Mr. Grote says: "With regard to the classification of the group it is conducted upon the basis first suggested by myself, *i. e.*, the forms with unarmed fore-tibiæ are separated, and other divisions are based upon genitalia and sexual characters." He refers to the CAN. ENT., XV., p. 51, March, 1883. In 1857 Lederer had already used *all* the characters suggested by Mr. Grote, and the latter has made absolutely *no* original suggestions for dividing the genus. Nor has Mr. Grote, anywhere in the Noctuidæ, used or suggested *new* characters. He has written as though I had found the basis for such work as I have done, in his writings. I wish distinctly to state that this is *not* the case. Herrich-Schaeffer, von Heinemann, Lederer, and others, all used the same characters that Mr. Grote has used. I claimed no originality for these bases of subdivision, and no credit is due to Mr. Grote therefor. In the systematic study of the sexual characters in this genus and in the American Noctuidæ I do claim originality. Lederer did not get the clasper in any case, and used only the external form of the harpes. Mr. Grote does not give any evidence, anywhere in his writings, that he went even as far as Lederer in this direction. Mr. Grote knows the writings to which I have referred, as his earlier papers sufficiently prove. In reference to my citations of determinations made by him in collections, these are always to specimens bearing a label in Mr. Grote's own handwriting, and where a type is referred to, it means a specimen so labelled by Mr. Grote himself. I refer now to Mr. Grote's paper in the Proc. Am. Phil. Soc., June, 1883, p. 176, for the following:—"I conclude this paper by briefly referring to the fact that I have determined my species in many collections. I enumerate those of Mr. Thaxter, Mr. Neumœgen, Mr. Hy. Edwards, Mr. Tepper, and in the Albany collections. A large number of my types are in Mr.