

The particular point here, however, is that these "representative" species vary *unequally*. There are all sorts of resemblances, stronger or weaker. Among the *identical* species I have referred to *Scoliopteryx libatrix*, and this is a remarkable species from its isolated structure. It is a Xanthid form, so peculiar that it has no quite near ally, and it is the same in Hudson's Bay Territory as in Europe. I have reared it from the thistle near Buffalo. Species which have such strong characters in tuftings and cut of wing are surely the same, and I have thus no doubt that our tufted cabbage *Plusia* is the same as the European, whether it was imported or whether, like *Scoliopteryx*, it is an unchanged survival. Only a certain judgment is necessary, arising from the handling of much material, to decide these points. It is a question of the *kind* of difference, not the apparent quantity. Smaller or less obvious characters are sometimes valid ones, while larger and prominent features are invalid. I should never describe as a species a form of the yellow species of *Rumia*, because black and yellow spotted insects, and especially *Geometridæ*, are prone to vary very much. Experience is especially needed in species-making. It is a little odd to notice, in this matter of varieties, how anxious some writers are to draw in the species of others, even when they absolutely do not know them, and how indifferent they are about drawing in their own varieties. They remind me of those people in ancient times who were so attentive to the wanderings of Ulysses and so oblivious of their own. My own mistakes have been sufficient to make me cautious. I do not forget that I described *Catocala sinuata* as a species distinct from *C. coccinata* Grote. But it seems to be better, when one is not quite sure, to claim the species at first, rather than describe as a variety what may turn out, in the long run, to be an independent form, having its cycle of reproduction perfectly distinct, and nowhere in the round of its life falling in with the circle of its neighbor.

ON THE GENERA ALLIED TO HOMOPTERA.

BY A. R. GROTE, A. M.

I have (CAN. ENT., vol. xv.) shown the different structure of the tibiæ in the genera of N. Am. *Noctuidæ* allied to *Homoptera* Boisid. But sometime previously I pointed out that this name was used for a section of Hemiptera, and that for this and other reasons we should probably be thrown back upon *Pheocyma* of Hübner.