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INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE GENERA OF MR. SCUDDER'S "SYSTEMATIC REVISION."

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Soon after the issue of the "Systematic Revision," and while I was trying to master the intricacies of its analysis, it occurred to me to tabulate the generic descriptions in some family, if, haply, I might thus discover the exact points of discrimination. By chance I took first the tribe *Adolescentes*, producing the table which accompanies this paper. In this table, if any expression or word which could distort the obvious meaning of the author, has been omitted or wrested from its proper connection, such change has been through inadvertence or mistake. In like manner I have tabulated the *Dryades*, the *Hamadryades*, the *Equites*, the *Voracia*, the *Fugacia*; I confess that when I came to the work of comparing phrase by phrase the five page descriptions of the genera *Papilio* and *Aglais*, my heart failed me. I resolved to wait until my unfledged pinions were equal to these lower and briefer flights of the scientific imagination before attempting this more extended journey.

In view of the introductory passages of the "Revision" which promised to remove "the reproach of Lepidopterists," it was with no little concern that I found my tables "insufficient"; that I was unable to distinguish the differences between the genera grouped in the *Adolescentes*, or the *Equites*, or the rest. I have waited now nearly four years for some Philip to say "understandest thou what thou readest?" and to give such elucidation that I could go on in joyful belief. No such apostle of the new-antique has appeared, and I venture to offer this table, with a few thoughts, to my entomological brethren.

The analyses of these generic descriptions show two items: First, that many of the differences expressed exist only in the phraseology, either indicating no differences, whatever, in fact, or differences so slight as to be purely opinionative; second, that other differences are such that they