

dissimilarity in the form, the wings of the female being always less angular than those of the males, as it is very apparent in *Vanessa polychloros*, *Satyrus Ogeria*, *Polyommatus Phloxas* and *Argynnis paphia*.

The characteristics we have just enumerated are common to all the insects of the Order Lepidoptera. We will now speak of some others less general and peculiar only to a family, a tribe or a genus.

In the large groups called Heterocera (Sphinges and Bombyces), the two sexes often differ from one another in the antennæ, which are thicker in the males than in the females. As examples we may mention *Liparis Dispar*, *Urapterys sambucaria*, *Cymatophora flavicornis*, *Emydia grammica*. Sometimes the antennæ of the females are simple while those of the males are pectinated or lamellated.

The Libytheidæ and Erycinidæ present another peculiarity. In these two families the females have six perfect legs, while the males have the forelegs aborted and useless for walking (examples: *Libythea celtis*, *Nemeobius lucina*). It is remarkable that the Nymphalide have also the front legs rudimentary or imperfectly developed, but in both sexes.

Some lepidoptera belonging to the family Hesperidæ (genera *Spiliothyrus*, *Syrictus* and *Thanaos*) have a fold on the superior border of the fore wings in the males. This fold is never seen in the females.

Finally we will mention the females of some well-known moths which differ still more widely from the males. Some, as the females of *Nyssia Zonaria*, *Cheimatobia Brunata*, *Hybernia leuophæria*, *Orgyia antiqua*, have only rudimentary wings; others, as the females of *Hybernia defoliaria*, *Anisopterix æscularia*, *Phygalia pilosaria* are entirely wingless or have wings so short as to be imperceptible. It is worthy of note that nearly all these moths are winter insects and appear only towards November, February or March. No satisfactory explanation of this fact has ever been given, but numerous suggestions have been made. Mr. John E. Robson, editor of the *Young Naturalist*, in a paper published in this magazine [December 1883] under the title, British Moths, gives the following reason based on the theory of natural selection:

"The season at which these species emerge is the stormiest
"of the year. The trees are stripped of their leaves, and the shelter