

So far we have gone over the principal features of the *Bombycidae*, more in explanation of the sequence adopted by me in the Check Lists, and which is that of Dr. Packard's Synopsis of 1864, than in any attempt to re-classify the family. But Dr. Packard gives no definitions of the higher groups, and the diagnoses of the new genera do not include certain structural characters, as, for instance, the neuriation. I cannot here attempt to limit the genera, and I only give the characters which render the higher groups more or less recognizable. The neuriation must be comparatively studied. As a whole it seems to me to show characters of simplicity. The cells are generally open; there is an absence of accessory cells and crowding of veins, such as we see in some other families of moths. We can believe that the *Sphingidae* may have been thrown off from the same stem when we compare the neuriation. Other characters, such as the absence of ocelli, may be additional indices. In the *Noctuidae* the ocelli are quite rarely absent, in the *Geometridae* quite rarely present. But they appear in some sub-families of *Bombycidae*, though not in the lower ones and in the more typical Spinners, such as, I think, stand nearer to the Hawk Moths. The *Bombycidae* are, as we find them now, detached groups with very diverse resemblances to other now distinct families of Moths. In this diverse resemblance lies the proof of the synthesis which the Spinner Moths present. To detach the different sub-families which we have here discussed is to lose sight of some of those finer questions of relationship which a close study of these insects calls up. No family of Moths is more interesting to the student on this account than the *Bombycidae*, with its great diversity of structure, appearance and habit. To the collector the beauty of the moths, their bright colors, the soft shading, the size of most of the species is equally tempting, while to the practical mind, the fact that the silk-worm, *Bombyx mori*, and other silk-producers, belong to the *Bombycidae*, must render the pursuit of these insects sufficiently attractive. They live short lives, the incomplete mouth parts render food-taking to many kinds an impossibility; they live so long as caterpillars or chrysalids, and lay their eggs and die. But the human mind seizes upon the many considerations, which it has evolved from a study of the facts presented by these creatures, and turns them to its profit or its pleasure.