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## AN ENTOMOLOGICAL MUDDLE: A REVIEW.

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I fear that any one reading the various papers which have appeared during the past year on the *Cunea*-*Congrua*-*Antigone*-*Textor* controversy would not be very greatly impressed with the lucidity of entomologists. This controversy illustrates remarkably well the difficulty of carrying on a discussion about species or forms whose status is disputed without rendering confusion worse confounded, for the simple reason that different persons use the same name in different senses. For instance, when Dr. Fyles writes of *cunea*, Drury, he does not mean the insect which Drs. Smith and Dyar understand by the same name, the moth which Harris called the many-spotted ermine moth of the South, *Phalæna punctatissima*, A. & S., but the individual moth which served as Drury's type and which he chooses to believe did not belong to the genus *Hyphantria* at all, but to have been a *Spilosoma*, and from this springs much of the misunderstanding which has arisen between these gentlemen.

In such a case as this, one cannot be too careful to assume nothing and to avoid terms which may be misunderstood.

There are several questions in connection with these moths which require elucidation, one of which, and to my mind the most interesting, viz., whether *textor*, Harris, and *punctatissima*, A. & S., to use terms of which there can be no doubt, are, as generally believed, merely forms of one species, or, as believed by Harris, distinct species, has been very generally overlooked by these disputants.