

farmers were plowing, bluebirds, robins, meadow-larks, red-headed woodpeckers and cedar birds were numerous.

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REMARKS ON THE DESCRIPTION OF *CAPIS CURVATA*, GROTE.

DEAR SIR,—

In Vol. xiv of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, at p. 20, Mr. A. R. Grote described *Capis curvata*, n. g. et sp. As a generic description this is certainly an extraordinary specimen of incomplete work. The species might be recognized, but the genus certainly can not be from the description. Genera are supposed to be based only on structural characters, and I presume that the remarks on structure contained in the description referred to, apply to the genus. Let us see of what these consist: "Antennæ simple"—an unimportant generic character, for many of the genera have the antennæ of its species both simple, ciliate and pectinate. "Ocelli."—Considering that there are 250 or more genera to which this can be applied, this does not help us much. "Labial palpi moderately projected, 3rd article short, a little depending."—This will apply to the majority of the Deltoidæ, and to many of the other genera; how they are projected, whether curved upwards or straight, Mr. Grote does not say; neither does he state how the palpi are clothed—a very important character in the Deltoidæ. "The form and outline of *Lisyrhypena*\* (? *Sisyrhypena*), but the wings shorter and broader." What form and outline has *Sisyrhypena*? Is the student expected to hunt up the description of that genus, only to find that the wings of that genus are compared with that of some other?

No one knows better than Mr. Grote the essentials of a good generic description, but he entirely omits any reference to the eyes, whether hairy, lashed or naked; there is no mention of the tibiæ, whether spinulated or not; no mention of the character of the vestiture, whether hairy or scaly, and nothing said of the tuftings, if any, or whether they are entirely absent.

There is doubt and trouble enough to assail the student in the older works, without adding to his burdens such descriptions as that of *Capis*, and expecting him to recognize it.

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\* *Lisyrhypena* was a typographical error. It should have been *Sisyrhypena*.—ED. C. E.