

thousands) of plants. In many places the ferns were young and still developing their sporangia, but about the middle of October a light touch of frost checked further activity.

This spring I found plants sprouting early in May; by the 20th of June I had found plenty of Adder's Tongue in every station discovered last autumn and had added several new colonies and stations to the list. The plant is, I believe, quite common and almost ubiquitous in country clear of forest where old pastures abound. A fortnight ago I was driven some 10 miles to a trout stream rather beyond the pedestrian's range. As I sauntered up stream I noticed an open hill-side through a clearing in the woods; it looked a likely place and was only a few rods distant; in 10 minutes I had found 30 or 40 plants, about turfmounds on its slopes.

I almost think myself competent now to find the Adder's Tongue, for anybody who wishes, in any locality whatever, provided it has the right conditions, with as much certainty at least as your water-finder will discover hidden springs with his forked hazel wand; perhaps with the same overweening self-confidence, and (it may be) the same inability to communicate my gift.

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#### NOTES ON EUXOA DETERSA WLK. AND E. PERSONATA MORR.

BY JOHN B. SMITH, Sc.D.

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In 1856, Walker described as *detersa* an American species which he referred with a query to *Chareas*. It came from Nova Scotia and was not identified in our collections until, after an examination of the type, I referred it, in my catalogue of 1893, to the *Agrotis pitychrous* Grote, described in 1873, in the Bull. Buff. Soc. Nat. Sci. 1, 82. This reference has been questioned by Mr. Schaus, I believe; but not very definitely, and it has been followed since then by Hampson in his monographic work. My note was that Walker's type was like an average *pitychrous*, such as was also represented in the Grote collection under the latter name; but Hampson's figure does not represent such a specimen; it is really more like a *personata*.

In 1876, Mr. Morrison described *Agrotis personata* from a single example, in the Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H. XVIII, 238, recognizing its resemblance to *pitychrous* and really differentiating it rather by locality than by any very decided characters. In