

under the custom and as accepted in Staudinger's catalogue, should be retained for the species it designates, since at the time it was free to be named and no subsequent generic separation can overturn its real and conceded right at the time it was proposed. *Vetusta*, Walk., as applied to *murænula*, must be relegated to the synonymy."

The facts are that Walker described *Mythimna vetusta* in 1856 and *Agrotis vetusta* in 1865; and Grote and Robinson described *Agrotis murænula* in 1868. In 1882, Mr. Grote stated that perhaps *Mythimna vetusta*, Wlk. (not both this species and *Agrotis vetusta*, as Prof. Smith states in Bull. 38, U. S. Nat. Mus., pp. 125 and 212), was *murænula*, and that it certainly was an *Agrotis*. Walker had thus unwittingly given two species of *Agrotis* the same specific name, and hence one was free to be renamed. But which one—the one described in 1856 as *Mythimna vetusta* or the *Agrotis vetusta* described in 1865? Mr. Grote evidently assumes that the former name must fall, but usage and consistency dictate that the older name should be retained. An examination of type specimens by Prof. Smith shows that *Mythimna vetusta*, Wlk., and *Agrotis murænula*, G. & R., are the same species. Then *murænula* must be placed in the synonymy of the older *vetusta*; and Walker's *Agrotis vetusta*, if it proves to be a valid species, is free to be renamed, and must be renamed should it be congeneric with *Porosagrotis vetusta*, Wlk. Thus, I believe the facts warrant Prof. Smith's use of the name *vetusta*, Wlk., for *murænula*, G. & R. Mr. Grote seems to have omitted *Porosagrotis obesula*, Smith, from his List for 1895.

## THE SECOND ANACRABRO, AND THE SMALLEST AMERICAN OXYBELUS.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL, N. M. AGR. EXP. STA.

*Anacrabro boerhaviae*, n. sp. or var.—♂ about 7 mm. long; differs from *ocellatus* by the yellow markings, which are as follows:—Dorsum of prothorax and tubercles yellow, the tubercles with a black central dot. Mesothorax all black, except a small yellow spot on each side at hind border, adjacent to yellow spot of scutellum. Scutellum with a pair of large yellow spots. Postscutellum yellow. Inner side of anterior half of anterior femora yellow. Tibiæ yellow, with more or less black behind. Tarsi yellow, slightly tending to orange. Segments 1-6 of abdomen presenting a yellow spot medially, and a large yellow patch on each side. The median spot on first segment is round, that on 2-3