

ON THE STRUCTURAL AFFINITIES OF THE GENUS DEMAS.

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In the Journal of the New York Entomological Society, Vol. III., pp. 130-131, Mr. Harrison G. Dyar writes as follows: "Prof. E. B. Poulton has shown that dorsal eversible glands are of general occurrence throughout the *Lymantriidae* (Trans. Ent. Soc., Lond., 1887, p. 300) on the tenth and eleventh joints (segments), or rarely only on the eleventh joint (*Dasychira pudibunda*). Probably these structures are characteristic of the family, but Prof. Poulton did not find them in *Demas*. This genus has been considered to belong to the *Noctuidae*, but English authors assume it to be a Lymantriid. Mr. J. W. Tutt remarks, in speaking of Prof. J. B. Smith's recent 'Catalogue of the Noctuidæ' (Ent. Record, VI., p. 70):—"The obsolete position of *Demas* among the *Noctuidae* is retained." Now, is this position 'obsolete?' The absence of the retractile tubercles certainly throws doubt on the matter. Now, I have shown a characteristic difference in the arrangement of the thoracic tubercles between the *Lymantriidae* and the *Noctuidae* (Trans. New York Acad. Sci., XIV., p. 57), and *Demas* shows the Noctuid structure. Therefore, on all essential larval characters *Demas* is a Noctuid. It might, indeed, be an Arctian, as far as the larva goes, but not a Lymantriid. As concerning the structure of the imago, *Demas* seems to have greater affinity with the *Noctuidae* than any other family; in fact, it appears to me that the placing of *Demas* among the *Lymantriidae* may properly be characterized as premature." Further, Mr. Dyar writes as follows:—"Pupa, shining dark brown with a large wrinkled cremaster and three movable incisures. Of the usual Noctuid appearance (quite unlike *Orgyia*) and passing the winter." This statement regarding the pupa must be read carefully in connection with the remarks of Dr. Chapman quoted below:

Now, I would call Mr. Dyar's attention to the following statements made by Dr. Chapman some two or three years ago. He writes:—"We now come to the two species, *Demas coryli* and *Diloba caeruleocephala*, that are certainly not very much related to each other, and though they have some indications of affinity with *Acronycta*, are not near enough to be placed in the same family. *D. coryli*, I should certainly restore to its old place in the *Liparidae*, to which it is far closer than to the *Acronyctas*. . . . But neither of them seemed to me to be nearer to *Acronycta*