

have the most complete, as far as it goes, accurate, and, for the style of the work, the cheapest—in short, *the best*—work yet published upon the Butterflies of North America.

J. FLETCHER.

---

## ON HEMARIS DIFFINIS, BOISD.

BY A. R. GROTE, BREMEN, GERMANY.

In my own collection I labelled a form in which a slight dentation of the terminal band on primaries was perceptible (and which in this respect agreed with Boisduval's figure in the Species General, and with Abbot's of *fuciformis*) as *H. diffinis*. It differed from *tenuis* by a greater breadth of band, a perceptible apical stain, a somewhat brighter or more yellow-haired body. Whether this was Mr. Strecker's *Aettira*, I knew not, since I was unacquainted with this author's work, having seen only his numbers on occasion. *H. tenuis* is more purely a black and yellow species, with no red; it is the smallest and commonest of our Northern forms; the bands narrow, quite even, black; the vitreous spaces seeming larger. Undoubtedly it will be labelled *diffinis*, as, before we wrote, everything was labelled *diffinis* or *thysbe* belonging to this genus. This genus is of the class I have called *progenera*, the species being near allied in all stages. Our forms (although *axillaris* strikingly contrasts with *tenuis*) are near together structurally; they vary in one direction, viz., the gradual increase of the apical red stain, of the width and dentation of the band of primaries, of general bulk. But they are all outgrowths of *fuciformis*, so to speak. They are quite different from *gracilis*. This latter, though very distinct, appears to me to be strictly congeneric with the European *bombyliiformis*, rather than with *fuciformis*, to stand alone without near allies, hence I divided it sub-generically to draw attention to its value as compared with the *tenuis* series, among which the Californian forms which I know, *palpalis*, *thetis*, range themselves. Quite American, and therefore certainly to be considered by themselves, are the forms I separated under *Hæmorrhagia*. The mission of Entomologists is to discriminate, not to confound. If our categories are unstable, they may be corrected, but inevitably they must be erected with precision to avoid the popular error of confounding different looking insects under the same category and under the same name.