

protected with a dense covering of silk, which interiorly was very hard and difficult to penetrate; still I cannot see any other way by which it could reach the eggs, unless the spider was compelled to retreat from the nest, when it was only partially covered with silk, and that the little ichneumon deposited her eggs amongst the group during the absence of the spider. If such is the case, the habits of the minute ichneumonidae are similar to those of the small parasitic species of *Microgaster*, for the latter always use stratagem, and, like the Dipterous cuckoo-flies, take advantage to deposit their eggs during the absence of the true owner of the nest. I do not know the species of spider to which the cocoon belongs.

### NOTICE OF THE SPECIES OF DREPANODES.

BY AUG. R. GROTE, DEMOPOLIS, ALA.

It is easy to distinguish the species of the genus *Drepanodes* from the other Phalaenidae, by their falcate or acutely produced primaries and their strong casual resemblance, both in size and ornamentation, to the Platypteryginae (*Drepana*, *Platypterix*, *Dryopteris*), a sub-family of Bombycidae. This resemblance, while it has suggested to M. Guenée the generic name, is paralleled in the sub-order in different instances; but is here noteworthy as illustrating the synthetic relation which the great family Bombycidae sustains to the other moths. The nearer affinities of *Drepanodes* in its family are with *Chaerodes*.

In the eighth volume of the *Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York*, will be found figures and descriptions of three species of this genus. Of these I have found *D. puber* and *D. varus* in Central Alabama. A fourth, which I here describe, I have from the same locality. This species (*D. sesquilinea*) I believe to be identical with one of which I have seen many specimens from New York and Massachusetts, but which I cannot at this writing compare. This not improbably will be found in Canada.

*Drepanodes sesquilinea*, n. sp.

*Male*. Pale smooth fawn colour, slightly lustrous; irrorations sub-obsolete. Both median lines distinct on the primaries above. The inner roundedly angulated on the disc approximate to the black discal dot. The outer acutely angulated below costa, consisting of a very narrow whitish external line and a deep olivaceous preceding shade. Apices moderately produced. External margin lined with olivaceous. Terminally there are distinct dark clouded spots interspaceally, between the nervules, at the middle of the wing. On the secondaries the external line is distinctly continued. External margin edged with olivaceous and stained centrally with ochreous. Outside of the external line both wings are shaded with