

rest anywhere within reach of its rapacious claws, and then only for some time. This is somewhat borne out by the fact that there are two or three smaller insects in the aquarium with my specimen, which have thus far entirely eluded *Ranatra's* appetite.

A noticeable characteristic is the exceeding slowness of this insect's motions. They are practically imperceptible, and only the change of relative position of limbs or body makes one aware that it has moved. On occasion, *Ranatra* swims, not very fast nor very gracefully, but sufficiently well to afford it more rapid transportation when it chooses to resort to this method of locomotion. The fringing hairs of its long legs are of great help in this. The second and third pairs are the ones used in swimming and walking, or otherwise moving about, by this insect, the first pair being used almost exclusively for prehension.

SOME CORRECTIONS TO DR. DYAR'S LIST OF NOCTUIDS.

BY A. RADCLIFFE GROTE, HILDESHEIM, GERMANY.

I.

In Dr. Dyar's recent very full and careful List of North American Noctuids, Wash. Cat., pp. 98-247, are a few errors which I would briefly point out in this journal. They have mostly arisen from a neglect of a couple of papers in CAN. ENT., and one in Proc. Am. Phil. Soc., 1895, as well as from a two literal following of Prof. Smith's Washington list. With regard to the general sequence of the order adopted, I have given that preferred by myself in these pages, and can only repeat here that the Noctuid series (*Lithosia*—*Noctua*) affords a parallel to that of the blues and skippers in the butterflies, and that I should place them below the series *Bombyx*, *Lachneis*—*Geometra*, disturbing as little as possible the older classifications.

For sequence and nomenclature see my paper, CAN. ENT., XXXIII., 116. The papers in CAN. ENT. apparently neglected by Dr. Dyar are: Vol. XXV., 217, and 153. The types of the forms therein described are, I believe, in the National Museum, Washington. They were sent at the time to Prof. Riley.

I shall not especially and in detail again refer to the names of Mr. Walker which incorrectly replace for the moment certain of these given by me. They have been already discussed in these pages; all the facts with regard to the use of *Hormisa* are given by me in the paper in the Am. Phil. Proceedings, above alluded to, p. 429, 1895. For *Hormisa*, which is a synonym of *Epizeuxis*, the term *Litognatha* should be substituted.