

with its two extra-discal teeth about half as acuminate as in *Robinsonii*, in the latter the anterior often extends across the subterminal space; s. t. line scarcely discernible, much less brown in the s. t. space than in its ally, almost concolorous. The ground colour of *Robinsonii* is pale gray with a slight bluish sheen as seen in its side light, that of *Barnesii* has a slight purplish sheen in a side light.

Hind wings black, fringe white with a slight ochraceous tinge at base, black at the ends of the veins. The under side as in *Robinsonii*, but more smoky in tinge.

Described from two examples from San Antonio, Texas; in the cabinet of Dr. Wm. Barnes, Decatur, Ill.

The writer would arrange the black-winged species of the Catocalæ of the United States as follows :

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Catocala, Schrank.      | 10. Flebilis, Grote.           |
| 1. Epione, Drury.       | 11. Robinsonii, Grote.         |
| 2. Sappho, Strecker.    | var. Curvata, French.          |
| 3. Agrippina, Strecker. | 12. Barnesii, French, nov. sp. |
| 4. Subviridis, Harvey.  | 13. Obscura, Strecker.         |
| 5. Lacrymosa, Guenée.   | var. Simulatilil, Grote.       |
| var. Ulalume, Strecker. | 14. Residua, Grote.            |
| var. Paulina, Hy. Edw.  | 15. Insolabilis, Guenée.       |
| var. Emilia, Hy. Edw.   | 16. Angusi, Grote.             |
| var. Evelina, French.   | var. Lucetta, Hy. Edw.         |
| var. Zelica, French.    | 17. Judith, Strecker.          |
| 6. Viduata, Guenée.     | Levettei, Grote.               |
| Maestosa, Hulst.        | var. Miranda, Hy. Edw.         |
| 7. Vidua, A.-S.         | 18. Tristis, Edw.              |
| Desperata, Guenée.      | 19. Elda, Behrens.             |
| 8. Dejecta, Strecker.   | 20. Relicta, Walker.           |
| 9. Rectora, Grote.      | var. Bianca, Hy. Edw.          |
| var. Luctuosa, Hulst.   | var. Phrynica, Hy. Edw.        |

#### A NEW CATOCALA FROM TEXAS.

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##### *Catocala moderna*, n. sp.

Allied to *C. viduata*, Guenée, but very much smaller, and at once distinguished by the pale angulated band of the under surface of hind wings reflecting through on upper surface, where it appears as a faintly yellowish mesial shade, distinctly outlined. Fore wings like *C. viduata*, of the same pale gray, with the black oblique shading running from costa at centre of median space outwardly to below apices, less marked than

in its ally. Subreniform paler, more yellowish. Else the lines and markings copy in miniature its ally. Fringe to secondaries white. Collar darker, with black line; thorax pale gray.

*Expanse* 70 mil. *Hab.*—Dolores, Texas.

Accompanying the fresh type are examples of *C. viduata*, Guen. (= *maestosa*, Hulst. Guenée considered his name sufficiently distinct from *vidua*, and adopted it for that reason), which expand 95–98 mil. I know of no black-winged *Catocala* in which the mesial band shows so plainly.

In this same collection is a fresh ♀ example of *Eacles imperialis*, var. *nobilis*, Neum., with the wings all suffused with russet; also one of var. *didyma*, Beauv., not recorded by Dyar. Yellow, with both wings terminally entirely russet, outside of the undulate pale purple band. My recollection of the work of De Beauvois is that he figures this form. The antennæ in the figure are incorrect; from having been broken off his type, the author was induced to effect a restoration in his figure not agreeing with reality. There is also a larva of a *Citheronia*, which does not well agree with alcoholic specimens of *C. regalis*, and may be *C. Mexicana*.

#### BOOK NOTICE.

STORIES OF INSECT LIFE (Second Series).—By Mary E. Murtfeldt and Clarence M. Weed. Ginn & Co., pp. 72, 1899.

Reliable books about insects, written so that children can understand them and will be interested, are few in number. The little work now under consideration fulfils its purpose admirably, and will doubtless be very useful in fostering a taste among children for insect life. The information given is accurate and well selected. Moreover, it is presented in an earnest, attractive manner, which will create a desire for more knowledge, and, with that desire, an inclination to seek for it where best it can be found, in the open field, by personal observation. The present booklet is intended as a companion to a similar publication of 54 pages, which appeared last year. Both are well and freely illustrated. The insects chosen for description are common objects of the country, just such as a child would wish to know about. The aim of the authors was well conceived, and has been well carried out. They say: "This little book is designed for use as a reading book, which shall lead the pupil to fuller observation upon the insects about him. It is not essential that the articles be read consecutively; but it is highly desirable that the pupils actually see as many as possible of the insects discussed." "The study of living insects should always have the first place in school work. The aim of the teacher should be, not to foster the collecting spirit so much as to develop the perceptive faculties in such a way that the pupil will not only notice the things about him, but will be on the alert for the significance of their structure, their colour or their habits of life." J. F.

Mailed May 31st, 1900.