

# THE SMALL PRIMARIES OF LEPIDOPTEROUS LARVAE.

WM. T. M. FORBES.

Attention has been called in the June number of the ANNALS to certain minute setæ which occur in all the known Lepidopterous larvæ, but which are inconspicuous save in a few cases, and have not been used in purely systematic work. The following references to papers where they are mentioned and figured may be of use. They appear to be strangely fated, having received no less than four different nomenclatures, besides a fifth which was never published, and so may be ignored.

I believe they were discovered by Charles B. Simpson, working in the Entomological Laboratory of Cornell University, and are described and figured in his manuscript thesis deposited here in 1899. His work called my attention to them, and I designated them by numbers similar to those assigned by Dyar to the larger setæ, in my dissertation published in the ANNALS in 1910. They are mentioned there only incidentally as they proved of no apparent taxonomic value. Fracker mentions and figures them in his thesis (Illinois Biological Monographs, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 33, etc.) giving them new designations. Tsou (Trans. Am. Micr. Soc. 33, 223, 1914) discusses the thorax subdorsal group in detail; and I again mention and figure the setæ in *Hepialus* (Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc. 24, 137-142, 1916). Finally actual priority of publication appears to belong to Quail and Bacot in *Notes on Cossidæ*, with its appended footnote, published in the *Entomologist*, Vol. 37, p. 93, in 1904; where they are mentioned and figured, though not given a name. There are certainly other references, but only these are now at hand.

The names which these setæ have received may be tabulated as follows:

	Thorax					Abdomen			Thorax and Abdomen
Forbes.....	xa	xb	xc	xd	(1)	(2)	x	iiia	ix
Fracker.....	gam'a	do	do	do	tau	—	gam'a	epsi'n	omega
Tsou.....	A1a	A1b	A2a	A2b	P1	—	A1	A2	P4
Garman.....	A	B	D	E	F	C	B	iiia	G

## NOTES.

(1) I seem to have overlooked this seta.

(2) This seta is not generally present, though apparently a regular feature of the Cossidæ; I omitted it from discussion, regarding it as a subprimary.

POSTSCRIPT—Professor Comstock has called my attention to two recent papers by A. Schierbeek (Proc. Koninkl. Akad. v. Wetensch te Amsterdam 19, 1, 1916; and Onderzoekingen verricht in het zool. Lab. der Rijksuniv. Groningen, VI, 1917). His account is confused, but ix and Fracker's *tau* (propedalis), and iiia (prostigmalis) are identifiable.



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