

Geometrid larvae. Then, by carefully lifting the foliage and searching debris beneath the plants, I discovered over a dozen more larvae several of which I took. These duly pupated and the first *I. vulpinaria* emerged on 16th June, when incidentally I noticed the first feral moths of the season on the wall beside the plants.

Although larvae were not observed eating dead or withered leaves, I found two on partly eaten withered foliage, and the larvae in captivity completed their growth on this. Later, I found eggs at Bexleyheath attached singly and insecurely to debris within the clumps of *A. saxatile*.

In conclusion, it is interesting to note that the moths are to be found only in the vicinity of *Alyssum*. Similar clumps of catmint (*Nepeta* sp.) and perennial rock cress (*Arabis* sp.) do not have *S. vulpinaria* resting on their adjacent walls.

## Grote in Hildesheim

By R. S. WILKINSON, Ph.D., F.L.S., F.R.E.S.

228 Ninth St. N.E., Washington, D.C., 20002

In a recent brief biography of Augustus Radcliffe Grote, the distinguished nineteenth-century American lepidopterist (Wilkinson, 1971), I was able to furnish little new information concerning the least documented period of Grote's life, his residence in Hildesheim, Germany, from 1895 until his death in 1903. A recent opportunity to examine German sources as well as a complete set of the publications of the Roemer-Museum (Hildesheim) has revealed some pertinent additional facts about the last years of that controversial entomologist who was called by his contemporary Tutt (1903) "the best loved and best hated lepidopterist in America".

Grote emigrated to Germany in 1884, after selling his famous collection of American Lepidoptera to the British Museum. Upon taking up residence in Bremen, he eventually married his second wife, Gesa Maria Ruyter, daughter of a wealthy tobacco merchant. His faltering financial condition revived, Grote was once again able to devote himself to entomological pursuits (Wilkinson, 1971). After a long and productive residence in Bremen, at least regarding publication, Grote moved to the nearby town of Hildesheim.

Our chief sources for this little-known end to Grote's amazingly productive life have been his few obituaries, such as Tutt's, which explained that "his reawakening of the sleepy museum at Hildesheim, to which he attached himself as an honorary helper some few years ago, is fresh in the memory of all of us, and there must be few British lepidopterists worthy of the name who are not familiar with the quarto brochures that have issued thence of late years" (Tutt, 1903). Grote's German friend Wilhelm Bode explained that "... seit 1895 bewohnte er Hildesheim und war bis zu seinem am 12. September v. Js. erfolgten Tode



am Roemer-Museum tätig, dessen entomologische Abteilung er verwaltete. Die Schmetterlingssammlung dieses Instituts hat er geradezu musterhaft aufgestellt und nützte überall, wo er konnte, dem Museum durch seine reiche Erfahrung und seine vielfachen Beziehungen zum Auslande" (Bode, 1904).

The facts reveal that Grote and his family moved to Hildesheim in the early spring of 1895, presumably soon after the actual writing of his classic "Collecting Noctuidae by Lake Erie" (Wilkinson, 1974). The last issue of *The Canadian Entomologist* containing a contribution mailed by Grote from Bremen was published in June, and the 15th June number of *The Entomologist's Record* included Grote's "Spring Notes" from Hildesheim. His papers show that he began to collect widely in his new locality, and quickly conceived the idea of a published monograph on the Lepidoptera of the vicinity. He soon became associated with the provincial museum which upon the death of one of its founders, Senator Dr Hermann Roemer, had been named the Roemer-Museum in 1894. This small but very well-stocked repository displayed antiquities, other objets d'art, and a considerable natural history collection.

Grote took the insect displays and study specimens in hand, and diligently arranged these as honorary curator, also serving on the board of directors of the Vereins für Kunde der Natur und der Kunst. His own collecting in the surrounding area resulted in a fine series of local specimens for the museum, but this was not enough for Grote; he solicited insects from correspondents in far parts of the world, including his American friends; as example, his boyhood comrade Edward Graef sent a collection from Brooklyn in 1896. Grote made considerable progress in acquisition, mounting and arrangement of the Hildesheim insect collections in the eight years before his death in 1903, so that in the following year the Museum could point with pride in its published guide for visitors to the especially extensive and attractive holdings of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera assembled by Grote (Roemer-Museum, 1904).

Grote's own publications during his last years in Hildesheim approached the remarkable record of productivity established in his later American period. Ninety-one titles are listed by Derksen and Scheiding-Göllner (1965) from the time of Grote's removal to Hildesheim until the conclusion of their bibliography at the end of 1900, and the present author has traced scores of additional papers in various American, English and German journals during Grote's last few years. He continued to favor *The Canadian Entomologist* with numerous contributions. Several significant papers were transmitted to the *Proceedings* of the American Philosophical Society, and others range from *The Entomologist's Record* to the *Insektenbörse*. (The author has fortunately acquired a bound volume of Grote's final publications, includ-



ing a number of ephemeral German papers, which will hopefully contribute to the completion of his bibliography).

Grote's wide-ranging interest in the Lepidoptera, which had considerably broadened during his earlier German years, was similarly pronounced during his residence in Hildesheim. His papers covered a spectrum of topics from a continuing critique of Francis Walker's type specimens at the British Museum to an increasing concern with the evolution of the Lepidoptera and the resulting classification of the Rhopalocera. The transition from his earlier pre-occupation (eminently useful as it was) with naming species and genera indicates a profound awareness of the direction entomology was taking, and Grote's studies of such topics as wing neurulation make very interesting reading for those interested in the development of contemporary concepts (although of course serious study of wing neurulation in the Lepidoptera originated in the eighteenth century).

In Hildesheim, Grote continued to express the same reverie about his American residence and sense of "exile" which was evident in his Bremen writings (Wilkinson, 1974). He felt that his American friends had forgotten him, which was not entirely true, as American investigators continued to send him specimens for identification and comment, and sometimes contributed to the museum at Hildesheim. His sense of isolation was always present, though often submerged. Shortly before leaving for Hildesheim, Grote contributed some verses to a celebration for his early Brooklyn teacher at the State Street School, Joseph Deghuée, recalling the early influences which now meant so much to him:

A moment pause! The air is stirred  
From far across the main;  
A scholar's waiting for the word,  
Wants to be heard again.  
Look round the board! Of all you taught,  
If few attend today—  
If any of us came to naught,  
If others made their way.  
All loved you. More can not be said,  
O, teacher wise and true!  
The light that you upon us shed,  
In love returns to you.  
Fill for the absent ones a cup,  
Whose hearts are yours always.  
And fill the goblet brimming up  
A thousand healths—Deghuée! (Grote, 1895a).

Grote's poem hardly rises to the level of his much earlier verses in *Rip van Winkle: A Sun Myth and Other Poems* (1882), some of which demonstrated unusual skill, but it suggests the reminiscences which haunted him in his later years. Even in the delight of field experiences, which Grote described with a literary quality subordinate to few other ento-



mologists, there was a sense of loss; collecting the magnificent Emperors *Apatura ilia* and *iris*, during his first summer in Hildesheim, Grote noted that both species had been "unusually abundant . . . Although very difficult to capture, eight or nine specimens were netted on July 9th, while feeding on droppings on the wood roads, or resting a moment on the bushes fringing the paths. At least fifty were seen during the morning. While engaged in the exciting chase, the perspiration (from the exertion and the great heat of the day) starting from every pore, the hunter could not help remembering the charming paper on *Iris* in the April number of the *Record*, and wishing, with all his heart, that the talented author [Hewett, 1895] had shared the wild joy and deep despair experienced on the occasion. The specimen, which was *almost* in the net, was evidently so much fresher—just from the chrysalis—than the one really bagged, that the failure to catch it cast a gloom over all existence. One lovely *Iris* was struck by the ring of the net, and dropped in the grass, from whence it arose wildly, and, in less than half a second, had soared over the highest oak. One peerless beauty lost a good bit of one hind wing in the struggle, but is otherwise so bright, that now, on the setting board, with the damage covered up for the moment by the paper strip, it reconciles one to this sad life" (Grote, 1895b).

So despite his feeling of isolation, Grote had not lost his inimitable talent for describing the chase, so evident in some of his earlier works, and he had not lost his characteristic and curiously perverse wit; in a communication to *The Canadian Entomologist* he complained that "I find my name *Melanomma auricinctaria* changed to *M. auricinctarium*. I protest against this alteration in my original spelling. In all cases the gender implied originally by the author should be conformed to subsequently . . . . If I conceive of *Melanomma auricinctaria* as a golden-ringed, black-eyed woman, there is none competent to contradict me and insist that I should conceive of it as a golden-ringed, black-eyed stone!" (Grote, 1898).

Preserving his characteristic idiosyncracies to the last, A. Radcliffe Grote died in 1903, but not until he had wrought a considerable change at what Tutt had called Hildesheim's sleepy museum. Grote not only contributed to the Roemer-Museum's insect collections, but the *Mitteilungen aus dem Roemer-Museum* series was initiated and, at least for a while, largely supported by his contributions on the Lepidoptera. Seven of the nineteen numbers published before Grote's death were written by him. They are described in the following bibliography, compiled from a complete series of the *Mitteilungen* at the Geological Survey Library, Washington, D.C., and incomplete sets at various other American libraries.

No. 1. Systema Lepidopterorum Hildesiae juxta opera



praeliminaria, quae ediderunt Bates, Scudder, Gulielmus Mueller, Comstock, Dyar, Chapman compositum. Pp. [1-4]. In Latin, dated August 1895. An arrangement of the Lepidoptera of the Hildesheim area into suborders, superfamilies and families, with type species for families. No wrappers present in examined copies, although they may well have been printed.

No. 2. Not by Grote.

No. 3. Die Apateliden. Pp. [1], 2-18, 2 plates. In German, dated January 1896. A monograph on the family Apatelidae (Lepidoptera), of Grote's superfamily Agrotides.

Blue printed wrappers.

No. 4. Not by Grote.

No. 5. Not by Grote.

No. 6. Die Saturniiden (Nachtpfauenangen). pp. [1], 2-28, [29-32], 3 plates. In German, dated June, 1896. A discussion of the family Saturniidae, with evolutionary diagram, figures of wing venation and chaetotaxy, and a list of the Saturniids of North America and Europe. Blue printed wrappers.

No. 7 System der nordamerikanischen Schmetterlinge. Pp. [1-4]. In German, dated 10th November, 1896. A division of North American Lepidoptera into suborders, superfamilies and families, the latter with types, in the manner of No. 1. No wrappers present in the only copy examined, although they may have been printed.

No. 8. Die Schmetterlingsfauna von Hildesheim. Ersten Theil: Tagfalter. Pp. [1], 2-44, [45-52], 4 plates. In German, dated February, 1897. A discussion of the classification of the Rhopalocera of Hildesheim (suborders, superfamilies, families), their characteristics and types; an evolutionary diagram; diagrams of wing venation; these followed by an introduction to the butterflies of the Hildesheim area and a catalogue. The plates are of wing venation. The catalogue includes type species, as well as localities and dates of capture of specimens. Grey printed wrappers.

No. 9. Entwurf eines diphyletischen Stammbaumes der europäischen Tagfalter. Pp. [1-4]. In German, dated August, 1897. Title page and diagram, "Versuch eines diphyletischen Stammbaumes der europäischen Tagfalter, wesentlich begründet auf die Entwicklung des Flügelgeäders." No wrappers present in the only copy examined, although they may have been printed.

No. 10. Not by Grote.

No. 11. Systema Lepidopterorum Hildesiae. Zweite Folge. Phylogenie und Begrenzung der Tagfalter-Familien, hierzu Stammbaum und Tafel. Pp. [1], 2-10, 1 plate. In German, dated April, 1900. The second fascicle of No. 1. A classification of the Hildesheim butterflies, with an evolutionary diagram and a plate illustrating wing venation. Grey printed wrappers.



[Grote's attempt to produce an extensive work on the Lepidoptera of the Hildesheim region was realized by his friend Wilhelm Bode (1907), who published a catalogue on the same plan, with additions and emendations].

#### References

- Bode, W. (1904). A. Radcliffe Grote. *Allg. Z. Ent.* **9**: 1-6.  
 Bode, W. (1907). Die Schmetterlingsfauna von Hildesheim. *Mitt. Roermuseum. Hildesheim*, **22**.  
 Derksen, W., and U. Scheiding-Göllner. (1965). *Index litteraturae entomologicae, 1864-1900*, II. Berlin. **228**.  
 Grote, A. R. (1882). *Rip van Winkle: A sun myth and other poems*. London.  
 Grote, A. R. (1895a). Untitled poem. In Deghuee alumni. *Can. Ent.*, **27**: **228**.  
 Grote, A. R. (1895b). Notes of the season. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **7**: 64-65.  
 Grote, A. R. (1898) Corrections. *Can. Ent.*, **30**: 327.  
 Hewett, G. M. A. (1895) Iris. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **6**: 145-147  
 Roemer-Museum. (1904). *Allgemeiner Führer durch die Sammlungen des Roemer-Museums*. Hildesheim.  
 Tutt, J. W. (1903). Current notes. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **15**: 272.  
 Wilkinson, R. S. (1971). Foreword. In Grote, A. R. *An illustrated essay on the Noctuidae of North America*. Hampton, Middlesex.  
 Wilkinson, R. S. (1974). The genesis of A. R. Grote's "Collecting Noctuidae by Lake Erie". *Great Lakes Entomol.* **7**: 16-18

## A Note on some Water Bugs (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) Collected on Cape Clear Island, West Cork

(Concluded from p. 243)

In conclusion, the writer wishes to thank Dr G. A. Walton for advice and for confirming identifications.

#### References

- Macan, T. T. (1964). A revised key to the British water-bugs (Hemiptera-Heteroptera). *Freshw. biol. Assoc. sci. publ.*, **16**: 1-77.  
 Sharrock, J. T. R. (1973). *The Natural History of Cape Clear Island*. Poyser, Berkhamstead.  
 Southwood, T. R. E. (1956). The Zoogeography of the British Hemiptera-Heteroptera. *Proc. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.*, **1956**: 111-125.

---

LYCAENA PHLAEAS L. AB. CUPRINUS PEYERIMHOFF IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT. — I captured a fine fresh female of ab. *cuprinus* near Ventnor on 19th August 1973. The summer brood of *phlaeas* was in good numbers at this locality and I also observed several specimens of ab. *caeruleopunctata* Ruhl.—T. D. FEARNEHOUGH, 26 Green Lane, Shanklin.



Wilkinson, Ronald S. 1974. "Grote in Hildesheim." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 86, 259–264.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/121152>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/197035>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Amateur Entomologists' Society

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.