

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## BOMBYCIDÆ—ZYGÆNIDÆ.

In the April number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Mr. Schaus states (p. 94) that Bombyx has no frenulum. A glance at Prof. Comstock's figure (Evol. and Taxonomy, p. 88) shows it distinct, but very small, so that difference of opinion about it may readily be entertained. This illustrates again that this character is not an adequate one for family definition. Mr. Hampson himself has already abandoned it. (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) xiv., pp. 254-261.)

In the same number Mr. Grote refers frequently to the Zygænidæ (p. 95). Can we not adopt some other name for this objectional term? As long ago pointed out by Westwood, Zygæna is pre-occupied in Ichthyology. Moreover, the name is entirely vague, for we have had associated under it most diverse insects belonging respectively to the more specialized Microlepidoptera (my Anthrocerina) and the higher Arctian type of the Noctuina. According to Kirby the type of Zygæna is *phægea*. Linn., an Arctian, while Hampson follows the old custom, and makes the type *filipendulæ*, a micro. I have used the terms Euchromiidæ (Syntomidæ) for the former, Anthroceridæ for the latter.

Now, we have in North America no Zygænidæ (*sensu* Hampson), as pointed out by Prof. Smith; our Pyromorphidæ are the nearest approach to them. Mr. Grote apparently uses the term for the Euchromiidæ, and only continues the confusion; for this fails to bring out the fact, which I think must finally become fully apparent, that the old family Zygænidæ must be separated into elements belonging to fundamentally dissimilar groups of the Frenatæ. Can we not entirely abandon the term Zygænidæ?

HARRISON G. DYAR.

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Royal Society of Canada will be held at Ottawa on the 15th, 16th and 17th of May, 1895. The Rev. T. W. Fyles, South Quebec, P. Q., has been appointed to represent the Entomological Society of Ontario at the meeting.

Mailed May 1st, 1895.