

# BIOLOGIA CENTRALI-AMERICANA.

---

## ZOOLOGIA.

---

### Class INSECTA.

### Order LEPIDOPTERA.

### Suborder RHOPALOCERA.

### Fam. LYCÆNIDÆ.

Though the species of Lycænidæ are exceedingly numerous in the New World, their number probably being not far short of those of all the rest of the world put together, they do not present anything like the same amount of diversity as regards their structure.

The comprehensive genus *Thecla* as understood in its wide sense includes nearly all the neotropical Lycænidæ. *Lycæna*, by which we mean the Blues (*Cupido* of Kirby's catalogue), is represented by a few species only, and there are some aberrant forms to which we refer below. As in the case of the Erycinidæ, we have prepared a large number of specimens for microscopical examination, and from these we have examined the neuration of the wings, the legs, the labial palpi, and the secondary sexual organs, and from the unprepared specimens the form of the wings, the antennæ, and the arrangement of the frontal scales; and from the characters found we have built up the arrangement which follows. We now briefly discuss them seriatim.

*The antennæ.*—The form of the club in the antennæ in *Thecla* is variable, being as a rule less prominent in those species which we have placed at the beginning of the genus than in those which come towards the end. The number of joints, too, also varies; in *T. regalis* we count 39, in *T. herodotus* only 29, other species have intermediate numbers; *Lycæna acmon* has 31. In *Thecla* and its allies a few spines are scattered amongst the scales of all the joints, but in *Lycæna* we do not notice any.

*The palpi.*—The third or terminal joint of the palpi varies greatly in the different species and very often in the sexes of the same species, being longer in the female than