

American species of Lycænidæ, for which it has been so freely used. Fabricius includes eight species in *Thecla*, of which he names three, *T. betulæ*, *T. spini*, and *T. quercus*; and it is only by considering *T. spini* the type that the species with two subcostal branches can be called *Thecla*, *T. betulæ* and *T. quercus* having three such branches. Hewitson restricted *Thecla* to the two-branched section, and placed in it several hundred South-American species, with a large number of which we now have to deal, as well as with many additional ones. So long as the genus *Thecla* remains undivided, the convenience of the application of the name in Hewitson's sense is obvious, and we continue its use as heretofore. We have seriously considered the question whether or no the genus should be divided into a number of genera, and this, at first sight, would seem to be the proper course; but on looking closely at the gradual modification of nearly all the available characters, we have come to the conclusion that if divisions be once commenced they would have to be carried to such an extent that the result would be far more confusing than the present state of things. Hübner, the great genus-maker of his day, undoubtedly proposed many names for genera now included under *Thecla* by Hewitson; but his combinations are by no means satisfactory, though these names may be made use of under some future arrangement; but we cannot too strongly urge that nothing should be attempted in this direction without an examination of carefully-prepared specimens, and not in the rough-and-ready method usually adopted. We have made many such preparations, which have enabled us to examine several points with great minuteness; they have served to show us that many more are necessary before an adequate knowledge can be obtained for satisfactorily grouping the various species.

As we have already dealt with the main features of the genus *Thecla* in our notes under the head of Lycænidæ, it remains to state approximately the number of species comprised in the genus, though it is difficult to make an exact estimate. Mr. Kirby's final Appendix, published in 1877, gives the number 541, and a good many species have been added since that; so if we place their present number at 600 or 700, we probably shall not be far wrong. Of these about twenty belong to the Old World. About forty species are found in the United States, some of which occur also within our borders. We have therefore about 550 species in the Neotropical Region, as far as our present knowledge goes, a number which will probably be largely increased by future research.

Within our own country we now recognize about 209 species which are widely distributed over the whole area, though their numbers are doubtless far greater in the hotter districts, for in Northern and Central Mexico, which still remain to be searched, there are comparatively few.