

L. Agassiz, and which contains a few notes in his hand, not changed the name of *C. quadricornis*. He has changed his *S. Carolina* to *quinquemaculata* and says of *G. epimenis*, that "it is probably a species of *Brepha*." Therefore, *C. quadricornis* has to be retained, as Huebner had nothing in any way to do with this species.

Of *Sphinx cinerea* Huebner, Vol. II., gives only a figure with the name *Lethia chersis*, not even the locality. Therefore, Harris' name has to be restored.

Of neither of these species is any description whatsoever given by Huebner. In his Verzeich., 1815, *L. chersis* is not mentioned, therefore, the plate must have been published after this year.*

THE CAPITALIZING OF SPECIFIC NAMES.

To the Editor of "PAPILIO:"

Can the editor of "PAPILIO" inform me upon what ground and for what purpose American lepidopterists have recently adopted the vicious habit of capitalizing the specific names of their insects? The tendency among entomologists, generally, has been in the other direction of using a lower case letter, even when the species is named after some individual or, in other respects, may be looked upon as a proper name. The prime object of nomenclature being to facilitate study and thought, this last fashion has everything in its favor. The capitalizing of specific names is almost as bad and fully as unnecessary and confusing as the use of the lower-case letters which has come into vogue among some catalogues. I am led to ask the question upon reading recent articles by Mr. A. R. Grote, in which generic and specific names are often used singly and in each case capitalized, so that none but those few who are entirely familiar with the terms can know whether genera or species are referred to, except by guessing or laborious reference. If there can be any sound defence of the custom I should like to know of it.

C. V. RILEY, Washington, D. C.

CONCERNING SO-CALLED TEMPERATURE FORMS OF BUTTERFLIES.

BY ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F. L. S., F. Z. S.

I have read with much interest a paper by Dr. Hagen, "On *Papilio machaon* L., and its North American representatives, etc." and, considered from a Darwinian point of view, it is undoubtedly

* Since writing this paper I have learned from a correspondent in Europe that in Senator von Heyden's copy of Huebner, received by him from Geyer himself, this plate is marked "published 1838 by Geyer. H. A. H."



Riley, Charles V. 1883. "The capitalizing of specific names." *Papilio* 3(3), 62–62.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/39873>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/318136>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

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>.