

CONCERNING SO-CALLED SPECIES.—In answer to Mr. Butler's remarks in PAPILIO, Vol. IV, pp. 39, 40, I will only say that I am not going to enter into an argument with that gentleman, because it would be useless. When a man is firmly convinced, as he seems to be, that every slight variation observed in a butterfly from a country where, owing to the want of resident collectors, little or nothing can be learnt about its limits of variation should be at once described, possibly from one or more imperfect or faded specimens, as a "new species," and when the analogous variations in better known allied species are ignored, and such species are described wholesale without the slightest reference to forms so close that no one can help suspecting a relationship, without figures, and with long wordy descriptions which often omit the only distinctive characters which are important in discriminating such species, then I have no common ground on which to reason with him.

I only ask your readers who have never had the misfortune to have to work out such species to look at Mr. Butler's paper on Japanese *Terias* in Trans. Ent. Soc. London, 1880, p. 197, and Mr. Pryer's subsequent remarks in the same publication for 1880, p. 485.

If they will imagine the same sort of thing repeated a hundred times in other genera they will then understand the nature of the Augean stable which some day or other will have to be cleaned out by Mr. Butler's successors.

H. J. ELWES.

OCCURRENCE OF CALLIDRYAS PHILEA Linn. and TERIAS MEXICANA in Wisconsin.—Dr. J. P. Hoy, of Racine, writes me as follows: "There is a butterfly taken in this county, ten miles from Racine, that I do not know. Color bright yellow; a large blotch of orange near middle of primaries, and a broad (orange) margin to secondaries; expands three and a half inches. As it is in a case I cannot see the under side, but I think it belongs to genus *Callidryas*." This is undoubtedly Cal. *Philea*, Linn., catalogued as occasional in Texas, but also as having been taken in Illinois, as per American Entomologist, Vol. II, p. 340.

The species abounds in the tropics from Mexico to Brazil, but I know no other instance of its capture north of Texas. Dr. Hoy also sends an example of *Terias Mexicana*, taken in same locality as the other, but says that he has seen it also in Grant Co., Wis., on the Mississippi River.

W. H. EDWARDS.

COLLECTING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.—The earthquake in Java, or some other disorganizing thing, has played the mischief with butterflies on the Pacific Coast, for this Spring rainy and cloudy weather has been the rule, where heretofore it has been the rare exception, and the butterflies have suffered correspondingly.

During February and March there was in Southern California scarcely a fine day, and two consecutive not once, and where usually six or seven inches of rainfall is a very fair allowance for the entire winter, twenty-six have now fallen.

This excessive cloudiness and dewing has apparently killed the brood of *Pap. Zolicaon* (there is but one brood, in March, and an occasional precipitation of solitary examples in July). I have seen but one lone specimen of it this spring, where usually I get dozens. Also *Anthocharis Cethura* is very scarce; *Lep-tarctia Lena* and her three twin sisters have been delayed a month, and all the *Geometers* have been scarce or entirely wanting. On the other hand *Chrysophanus Helloides* was taken March 12th, three months earlier than ever before by me. *Lycæna Sagitifera* came a month sooner than heretofore, and I also took a dozen fine *L. Sonorensis* some weeks in advance of ordinary years. *Syneda Socia* and *S. Edwardsii* have also come early.



Elwes, Henry John. 1884. "Concerning so-called species." *Papilio* 4(5/6), 113–113.

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