

NOTES AND QUERIES.

EUGENE M. AARON, Editor of PAPILIO,

Dear Sir:—On my return to the city a few days since, I received No. 5 of the 4th vol. of PAPILIO which you were so kind in sending to my address.

On page 103, I am pleased to see a notice of my early efforts to make known some things about the LEPIDOPTERA of North America, which had I received sufficient patronage I intended to extend to the adjacent South; and made collections and a few drawings with that view supposing that the splendor of the Southern species would meet the public taste; but was disappointed. This occurred more than half a century since.

The question about priority in nomenclature is comparatively of modern invention. What constitutes publication it seems is still in doubt.

The doubted plates were printed and colored, were distributed amongst scientific friends, some colored and others uncolored were deposited in Scientific Libraries. I gave a set to Mr. Doubleday of the British Museum personally on his visit to this country about the year 1836,—probably this is the same now noticed, the descriptions are still in MS.

I made a rich collection on the Magdalena River, S. A., in 1830-31, of new and beautiful species, but considering it essential that *new* species particularly should have colored illustrations I have deferred publication, preferring to lose a name, for my pets, rather than give imperfect work to the public by multiplying synonyms and disgusting students of Nature.

The work alluded to in PAPILIO by Mr. W. F. Kirby, has been continued from 1833 down to the present day, and has been illustrated by 109 finished drawings, with material on hand for 30 more unfinished drawings, of diurnal species alone; of the *Noctuæ*, I have raised great numbers illustrating the history of each species separately; of *Sphingidæ* I have complete illustrations of twenty species in various transformations with their food, etc. This is not the labor of a day, but that of a life, without hope of publication of a book, or books; from publishers I receive no encouragement; but it is a "labor of love," and don't furnish much nourishment for the body.

I thank you for the notice in the publication of Mr. Kirby's paper.

ACAD. NAT. SCI. PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 1, 1884.

Respectfully, T. R. PEALE.

PAMPHILA BARACOA, LUC., IN FLORIDA.—One of the most interesting captures made in Central Florida this year by Mr. H. K. Morrison, was a fine series of *Pamphila Baracoa*. This little Hesperid, closely allied to *P. Cernes*, has always been common in collections from the West Indies, but has never, so far as I can ascertain, been credited to our fauna. That it should be taken in quantities is remarkable, unless, indeed, it has heretofore been mistaken for either *Cernes* or *Manataaqua*. It is rather more deeply colored; the costal dash is a deeper orange; the markings are usually more pronounced; and the band of spots on the secondaries, beneath, is generally very prominent, though at times almost obsolete. I am inclined, after a hasty examination, to place it with *Manataaqua* as a co-form of *Cernes*. A careful study of a large series of all three forms (which I fortunately possess) will probably justify that conclusion. I should be glad to receive from students of the DIURNAL LEPIDOPTERA any information in their possession relative to the geographical distribution of *Baracoa*.

E. M. AARON.



Peale, Titian Ramsay. 1884. "Letter to the editor of Papilio." *Papilio* 4(7-8), 150–150.

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