

will henceforth reform his ways and modestly follow the usage of the fathers. W. H. EDWARDS. Coalburgh, W. Va., April 20, 1883.

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With the permission of the editor of "PAPILIO" I wish to make a few remarks in reference to the question raised by my friend, Mr. Riley.

Formerly many writers used capital letters for specific names, at least in the case of proper names or adjectives derived from them; but lately the practice has generally been to write every specific name, without exception, with a small letter, and to this rule I am obliged to conform in much of my own work.

Personally, however, I always prefer to commence specific names with a capital letter, and in independent work (such as my Catalogue of Diurnal Lepidoptera, for example) I use capitals for all specific names. It is a matter of convenience, not of principle, although, as regards the latter, a specific name is as much part of the name of the species as the generic name, and equally well entitled to be printed with a capital letter; but in lists of species capital initial letters catch the eye so much more readily than small letters, that I would never advocate the use of the latter. On the other hand, except in columns or series, no specific name should ever stand by itself without, at least, the initial letter of its genus before it. W. F. KIRBY, Zoological Dept. British Museum, April 30, 1883.

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Staudinger spells the species with a capital, and it seems to be the practice in England. I am like the old man with the ass in the fable. When I quoted the author of the combinations, like Le Conte and Packard, Prof Riley called my list "immoral." Now, I have a "vicious habit," though I have abandoned the custom first complained of. Mr. W. H. Edwards spells the specific names of the butterflies with a capital. I suppose what holds for the one does for the other. Is there anything else? A. R. GROTE.

#### ERRATA.

The following sentence in my communication on the capitalizing of specific names (p. 62) was written with the bracket portions and should be so read. "The capitalizing of specific names is almost as bad and fully as unnecessary and confusing as the use of the lower-case letters [for generic names] which has come into vogue among some catalogue[r]s." C. V. RILEY.



Kirby, W. F. 1883. "Capitalizing specific names." *Papilio* 3(5-6), 105–105.

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