

*Phyciodes* in the mountains of Colorado, and is found at all elevations below timber line the whole summer. These butterflies are very fond of flowers, but do not often congregate at wet spots in the road like *Tharos*.' Mr. Mead's remarks, of course, apply to north Colorado.

I received a cluster of about 100 eggs of *Camillus* from Mr. Nash, at Pueblo, altitude 4400 feet, Sept. 3, 1884, laid on August 29th, by a female confined in bag over a species of *Aster*. This female was also sent, and was form *Emissa*, banded across under hind wings. The larvæ hatched September 5th. I gave them during their stages leaves of half a dozen species of *Aster*, all which were eaten readily. In habits the larvæ resemble *Tharos*, being exceedingly hardy, and suffering none at all from close confinement. They are very rapid in growth also, like *Tharos*, and unlike *P. Picta*, which I was feeding at same time.\* The first moult passed September 9th; the second, 12th; the third, 16th; the fourth, 22d; and the first pupation took place September 28th. The first imago appeared October 5th, so that from laying of egg to imago was but about five weeks. All the emerging butterflies were of the summer form. I had supposed these larvæ would hibernate after third moult, as *Tharos*, at Coalburgh, would have done at this season of the year, and as *Picta* did, but all went to chrysalis. I had disposed of many larvæ in one way or other, but obtained 22 butterflies, 5 ♂ 17 ♀, all of the *Camillus* type, and so unlike the female parent.

Mr. Nash tells me that the species flies in June, at Pueblo, so that the female which laid these eggs August 29th must have been of the second brood of the year. If the dimorphism was strictly seasonal, as in case of *Tharos* and *Marcia*, this female should have been of the form *Camillus*. As it was *Emissa*, the second brood,—supposing the winter brood to be *Emissa*,—may be composed of both forms, as in the mid-summer brood of *Grapta Interrogationis*. If so, it differs from the other dimorphic *Phyciodes* named. In this peculiarity the *Grapta* spoken of differs from the rest of the genus on this continent, so far as known, as in them the dimorphism is strictly seasonal.

—o—

## A QUESTION OF PRIORITY.

BY E. M. AARON.

During the summer of 1877 the late Mr. Boll, of Texas, collected in that State a considerable number of species of butterflies, sets of which were sent to Mr. Herman Strecker, of Reading, Pa., and Mr. Wm. H. Edwards, Coalburgh, W. Va. These gentlemen, with their usual promptitude in such matters, proceeded at once to a study of these

\* I have recently described the preparatory stages of *P. Picta* in Can. Ent. vol. 16, p. 163.



captures and the descriptions of the new species were soon in MS. form. Mr. Edwards at once sent descriptions of some of them to the *Canadian Entomologist*, in which they appeared about November 1st (Can. Ent. IX, p. 189-192, October, 1877), and of others to *Field and Forest* (F. and F. III, pp. 87, 88, 89, 101, 103, and 118, 1877). As the October number of the *Canadian Entomologist* was on the table of the American Entomological Society, at their meeting held Nov. 9, 1877, there can be no doubt that the names given by Mr. Edwards to the species described therein can base their claims to precedence on that date. On the other hand, Mr. Strecker reserved the publication of his descriptions for Part 14 of his *Lepidoptera, Rhopaloceres et Heteroceres*. Now it appears that while these descriptions were written during September, 1877, and were doubtless in type as early as the descriptions of Mr. Edwards, still the part in which they appeared was delayed, by various causes, until the latter part of the following March. After very careful and far-reaching inquiry I find that March 25, 1878, is as early a date of circulation as this part can be credited with. It was not on the table of the American Entomological Society, nor was it received by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, before that date, and inquiry of subscribers in Philadelphia and elsewhere, fails to indicate that any one received it before the last week in March.

My attention was called to this matter by the receipt of a portion of Godman and Salvin's superb work on the fauna of Central America, at the rooms of the American Entomological Society. In this part (Godman and Salvin, Biol. Cent. Amer. Rhopal. vol. i, p. 1, pl. 1) they give Mr. Strecker's names the precedence in each case where the question arises. Just prior to the receipt of this work by the Society, my brother, S. F. Aaron, had returned with a very complete collection of butterflies made in the region of Corpus Christi, Texas. This collection contained most of the species which Mr. Boll had taken at San Antonio. As we wished to send some of these to collectors correctly determined, and also to contribute to the pages of *PAPILIO* for November a notice of these captures, it became necessary to settle to our own satisfaction this question of priority.\* To enable us to judge conclusively both Mr. Strecker and Mr. Edwards were written to; from their replies I extract the following:

COALBURGH, W. VA., Nov. 18, 1884.

MR. E. M. AARON, Dear Sir:—

Yours of 17th is received. I reply to your inquiry about *Melitæa Ulrica* versus *M. Imitata*. If Godman and Salvin have given Mr. Strecker's names the priority, as you tell me, it is because they have overlooked the facts.

\* It is probable that a few of these species will be found to belong to Hewitson and other European describers.



In September, 1877, I received several butterflies from Mr. Boll, all taken that season in Texas, and at once described them in *Can. Ent.* IX, October, 1877, and in *Field and Forest*, III, November, 1877. These species were *Mel. Ulrica*, *Mel. Dymas*, *Charis Australis*, *Amblyscirtes Nysa*, *Pholisora Nessus*. In March, 1878, appeared Strecker's Part 14, but bearing on the cover the date 1877! I received my copy March 28, 1878, and wrote the date on the cover. In this Part appeared duplicate names for all the species spoken of, described by me October-November, 1877; also Scudder's *Satyrus Dionysius*, 1877, was re-described as *Ashtaroth*, Str. In *Can. Ent.* X, p. 79, April, 1878, appeared a review of Strecker's Part 14 by Mr. Saunders, the editor. He says the Part reached him March 28th, and on inquiry he finds other subscribers received it within a day or two of that date, and proceeds: "We desire to call particular attention to this fact, as this Part of the work, in which a number of species are described as new, bears the date of 1877. In Dr. Hayden's last Report, Mr. Scudder described a *Satyrus* larger than *Ridingsii*, and like it, from Utah, as *Dionysius*, which seems to be identical with Mr. Strecker's *Ashtaroth*. Mr. Strecker's *M. Imitata* is also doubtless a synonym of *M. Ulrica* Edw., *Can. Ent.* IX, p. 189; his *M. Larunda* the same as *M. Dymas*, Edw., l. c. p. 190; his *Pamphila Similis*, Edwards' *Amblyscirtes Nysa*, l. c. p. 191; his *Charis Guadeloupe* identical with *C. Australis*, Edw., *Field and Forest*, November, 1877." And Mr. Saunders reprobates severely this practice of antedating, as will be seen on reference to the paper. I add further that Mr. Strecker's *S. Notabilis* is identical with *P. Nessus* (*Pyrgus Nessus*, as Dr. Speyer gives it).

To the criticisms of Mr. Saunders the other replied by entering all his names spoken of in his Catalogue of Butterflies and Moths, issued 1878, as rightful, with the particular date to each of "September, 1877," followed by the name given by me as "October, 1877." In the case of *Dionysius*, Scud., it reads "*Ashtaroth* Str., September, 1877; *Dionysius*, Scud., February, 1878."

Only the younger lepidopterists need to be reminded that printing is not publishing, and that the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature are explicit in demanding publication in order to insure recognition of the name given to any species. Part 14 spoken of was published late in March, 1878, but bore on its cover the date 1877, and that settles the matter as to the priority of these names. The date in the Catalogue of "September, 1877," does not better the claim made by Mr. Strecker.

Not only was Part 14 antedated many months, but Part 15 also bears the date of 1877, and was delivered to subscribers late in July, 1878. This contains but one description of butterfly, *Mel. Alma*, and in Strecker's Catalogue the species is put down as of 1877. It happens in this case that there is no synonym, and the question of antedating



will not come up. But the Part contains several descriptions of *Sphinges* and Moths, to which, or some of them, it is not unlikely there are other names rightfully claiming priority.

W. H. EDWARDS.

READING, NOV. 17, 1884.

MY DEAR MR. AARON:—

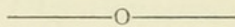
By referring to page 130 of my *Lep. Rhop. et Het.* you will see the description of *Melitæa Imitata*, also the allied *M. Larunda*, as well as of other species. At the end of the article, p. 132, you will see the date SEPTEMBER, 1877.

Then turn to *Canadian Entomologist* vol. ix (No. 10), p. 189, and you will find the same insects redescribed by W. H. Edwards as *Ulrica* and *Dymas*. By looking at p. 181, the heading of the number, you will see this was published OCTOBER, 1877, one month later. So it is not difficult to see how they stand; plain enough I should think.

Yours truly,

HERMAN STRECKER.

It will be seen by the above letters that the whole question hinges on what is required of an author before he can lay claim to a species. Both the British and American Associations have for years agreed that publishing was necessary, and that a work was not published until it was accessible (in circulation) to students. As Mr. Strecker's descriptions were not before students until March 1878, and Mr. Edwards' were accessible during November, 1877, it seems that there can no longer be any doubt as to the right of the latter gentleman to these species. I have dwelt upon this matter at this length as it seems likely that several of these species will hereafter be common in collections, and it is desirable that the matter be set at rest.



THE BROOKLYN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY at their next business meeting will consider the advisability of assuming control of PAPILIO, and publishing it in connection with their Bulletin. Unless such an arrangement can be made PAPILIO will be discontinued after the publication of the number for December, 1884. Of the 250 subscribers who have regularly received it without protest, less than 100 have paid for it. The latter, together with certain Entomologists to whom the Editor is glad to be able to send it as a token of esteem, are the only ones who will receive this number. The loss of many hours of precious time, and about \$200 as well, is not incurred for the benefit of the majority who are delinquents.



Murray-Aaron, Eugene. 1884. "A question of priority." *Papilio* 4(7-8), 131–134.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/39770>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/318325>

**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>.