

side is of decidedly lighter tone, which is in accordance with the original description of *citima* (Papilio I, 53), and with the type specimens in the Henry Edwards collection, with which I am familiar.

My observations of this insect lead me to believe that in the south (New Mexico and Arizona) type *chrysalus* is found predominant with the rich orange markings, while in the north (Utah), whence I have a good series of specimens, the orange markings are aborted and in many specimens entirely wanting. I think the form designated as *citima* as worthy of a varietal name as many other colour varieties of the butterflies.

In the Colorado specimens it is, moreover, not unusual to find the black patch midway of the wing on the costa entirely wanting, and also the black scales along the costa reduced to a very fine band, thus leaving the entire disc of the primaries purple. Another interesting variation is a tendency in some female specimens to have yellow spots replacing the orange found in the type *chrysalus*.

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#### "A DECISION ON MEIGEN'S 1800 PAPER."

BY D. W. COQUILLET, WASHINGTON, D. C.

In concluding the article under the above heading, which appeared in the January number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, the statement is made that "the Commission did not only not decide against my contention," (*i. e.*, that the Meigen names of 1800 are *nomina nuda*), "but that the Secretary expressly says that the essential feature of the case does not lie within the jurisdiction of the Commission."

This is an extraordinary deduction, in view of the fact that in the portion of the decision quoted it is stated that "the Commission is of the opinion that the generic names in Meigen's Nouvelle Classification, 1800, must take precedence over those in his Versuch, 1803, in every case where the former are valid under the International Code."

Thus the names of 1800 are placed on the same footing as those of 1803, otherwise they could not take precedence over the latter. The status of the names of 1803 has never been questioned.

It must be borne in mind that the Commission applies the term *valid* only to the oldest available names of the various genera, not to synonyms or homonyms. In view of this fact, the statement of Dr. Stiles, that the question of the *validity* of the names rests with the specialist, becomes perfectly plain. None but a specialist could unravel the synonymy in a given group.

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