

guished by certain *characters*. Yet simple though this at first sight appears, we shall find that many intricate questions are connected with it. Our idea of the species is based on the resemblance of the individuals composing it in all the characters which we consider essential. If, for instance, a number of sheep and goats are placed before us, we readily select the individuals of each species. In doing this we give no regard to differences of sex or age, but put the young and old, the male and female, of each species together. Nor do we pay attention to merely accidental differences: a mutilated or deformed specimen is not on that account separated from its species. Nor do we attach value to characters which experience has proved to vary according to circumstances, and in the same line of descent. Such, for example, are differences of colour, or fineness of the hair or wool. The remaining resemblances and differences are those on which we rely for our determination of the species, and which we term essential. We shall find that these essential characters of the species are points of structure, proportion of parts, ornamentation, and habits.

These characters constitute our idea of the species, which we can readily separate from the *Individuals* composing it. The individuals are temporary, but the species is permanent, being continued through the succession of individuals. If all the adult individuals are alike and indistinguishable from each other, then any one may serve as a specimen of the species. If there are differences of sex or *Varieties* subordinate to the species, then a suite of specimens showing these will represent the species. The species is thus an assemblage of powers and properties manifested in certain portions of matter called individuals, and which are its temporary representatives. It follows that the species is the true unit of our classification, and that the indefinite multiplication of individuals leaves this unchanged.

Our idea of the species will however be imperfect if we do not distinctly place before our minds its continued existence in time. This depends on the power of reproduction, whereby the individuals now existing have descended from similar progenitors, and will give birth to successors like themselves. A moment's thought will suffice to show that, independently of this, species could have no real existence in nature. If animals were not reproductive, the species would become extinct after the lapse of a generation. If their reproduction followed no certain law, and