

NOTES ON A POLYMORPHIC BUTTERFLY, SYNCHLOE
LACINIA, GEYER (IN HUB. ZUTR.), WITH DESCRIPTION OF ITS PREPARATORY STAGES.

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"Godman and Salvin, Rhopal. I., p. 177, 1882, under the specific name *Lacinia*, place *Saundersii* and *Tellias*, Bates; *Quehtela* and *Ardena*, Reakirt; *Paupera*, Felder; *Mediatrix* and *Misera*, R. Felder; *Pretoria*, Boisduval; *Crocalle*, Edwards; *Adjutrix*, Scudder, and *Adelina*, Staudinger; all of which they consider but inconstant forms of one species. From their works we quote: 'Between these extremes, *Adelina* and *Saundersii*, every gradation of colour can be traced, and all the rufous markings, as well as the yellow ones of the under side, can be exhibited in different individuals from their maximum development till they vanish altogether. . . . In the Southern States of North America, a form occurs which is very like *Saundersii*, and is prevalent in Texas. This is *Adjutrix*, Scudder, but we doubt the possibility of maintaining its distinction. In Arizona another form occurs, *Crocalle*, Edw., which we take to be undistinguishable from *Adelina*, and therefore connected with the whole series.'" Quoted from E. M. Aaron, in Papilio IV., p. 177, in his paper entitled List of a Collection of Diurn. Lepid. from Southern Texas. Mr. Aaron adds: "Among these Texas captures were *Saundersii*, *Adjutrix* and *Mediatrix*; the latter two were taken in copulation."

I have not access to the works of Godman and Salvin, but Dr. Skinner informs me that they figure eleven forms of this species, and its localities extend even to Peru and Bolivia. These authors based their opinion as expressed not at all, so far as appears, from rearing the larvæ. Indeed, until recently, no one seems to have been acquainted with any of the preparatory stages, not only of *Lacinia*, but of any species of the genus *Synchloe*. In 1892, Prof. Packard sent me in a tube with alcohol an adult larva and pupa, received by him from Prof. Tyler Townsend, of Las Cruces, N. M. In 1893, by the aid of Mr. T. D. A. Cockerell, also of Las Cruces, I have been able to study all the stages from egg to pupa. He wrote 7th July: "I saw a black and white butterfly, rather like a small *Limenitis* (was it not *Synchloe Crocalle*?) settle on two or three leaves of a sunflower." On 26th July: "Yesterday, Prof. Owen took me to his ranch, a short distance from Las Cruces, and I got there some *Crocalle* larvæ, which I send herewith. I find that the young are gregarious, feeding as closely as they can stand on the upper side of a leaf of