

The course of development, as well as the general appearance of the imagoes of all broods were practically alike. In its life-history, the species differs somewhat from our eastern forms in moulting only five times, and all the individuals of a whole generation passing their transformations quite regular in about eight weeks, from the deposition of eggs to perfect insects. The last larval stage has a prolonged duration and the very restless larvæ at this period are inclined to attack and destroy each other. The very active and erotic males of this and other species of our N. A. Arctians manifest a decided inclination for uniformity of colour, gradually eliminating the probably original black to finally uniform white; the conservative females apparently striving to retain and extend their dark colour. More constant forms like *virgo*, even show in the male sex a varying but decided paleness of the red colour of hind wings. In closely related European and Asiatic genera the wings of the sluggish, retrograde females are rudimentary. (*Ocnogyna*; *Tancrea pardalina*; *Rhyparia leopardina*.)

The tendency of the males to diffuse the light colour from the probably original sources—the veins*—and its transmission by the male parent seems to be constantly counteracted by the conservatism conveyed by the female parent. The vacillating, but still aimed variability of some of our more vital species, perhaps finds here its principal solution. In the much-disputed *nais* group, for instance, the females of the four distinct species (all probably originally deriving from *nais*, but now distinct) are recognized and separated from each other without the slightest difficulty, while the males, striving finally towards uniform and light coloration, are naturally bound to create resembling forms, merely by the two antagonistic principles inherited from the male and female parents. To consider these species as lingering in a *status nascens* might as well apply to all variable forms.

Stimulated by high temperature, it seems with the males of *proxima* that the black colour is gradually eliminated; the process generally begins with the area from 2nd to 4th transverse bands, which, widening in excess, leave (as far as the experiments reach) only two black irregular costal marks and a geminate dot at interior margin of middle area, besides traces of the black colour near base; the dorsal black maculation of abdomen is almost entirely superseded by red and the black of terminal

*Dr. Chr. Schröder, Zeitschrift f. Entom., July, 1904, p. 257.