

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XI.

LONDON, FEBRUARY, 1908.

No. 2.

STUDIES IN THE GENUS INCISALIA.

BY JOHN H. COOK, ALBANY, N. Y.

V.—INCISALIA POLIOS.

Described in THE CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Vol. XXXIX, No. 6, p. 204.

When this species was named in June, 1907, the final snarl of a nomenclatorial tangle of thirty years' standing was resolved into its constituent threads. *Incisalia polios* is not a rare butterfly discovered by the fortuitous capture of a few local specimens; it is common in many places near centres of entomological activity. Nor is it an obscure form, to be separated from its congeners only after painstaking study; it is marked in a very characteristic manner, and is easily identified. In fact, it has been mentioned in the literature several times either as a recognizable variety or as a distinct species, but has always masqueraded under an assumed name.

Strecker's misidentification.—In his Catalogue of Butterflies (1878), Herman Strecker listed the *Henrici* of Grote and Robinson as a variety of *irus*, Godart, characterizing it as "smaller" and with the "inferiors tailless." As I have already pointed out,¹ this characterization is erroneous, and does not apply to *Henrici*. It does, however, apply to *polios*; and that Strecker had an (at that time) undescribed species before him, which he misidentified as *Henrici*, is proved by specimens of *polios* in his collection labelled *Henrici*. Evidently Strecker had never seen the type of Grote and Robinson's species (which is hardly to be wondered at in view of the strained relations existing between him and Grote), and how he came to make the error is not apparent. But that others have relied upon the accuracy of his determination, and thereby given life to the mistake, cannot be doubted.

W. H. Edwards bred *Henrici*, and expressed his conviction that it was a good species in 1881 (Papilio, I, p. 152). He placed it as such in his catalogue of 1884, although in his earlier catalogue (1877) it had been given as a variety of *irus*. Fernald, C. H., in "The Butterflies of Maine" (1884), followed Edwards in separating *Henrici* specifically from

1. CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Vol. XXXIX, No. 6 (June, 1907), p. 182.