

to me probable that, as Nature likes zebras all different she may like variety in other ways.

We may then name as the reasons for varied colouring (1) Nature's love for variety; (2) concealing coloration; (3) facilitating recognition between members of the same species; (4) sex attraction; (5) revealing for the purpose of warning. These are by no means named in the order of their relative importance.

At first glance there seems to be a contradiction between some of these functions. For example, number three, four and five are advertising, revealing; while number two is quite the reverse. This has been recognized by both sides of the controversy. "How can a thing be both concealing and advertising?" ask the opponents triumphantly. And the proponents, instead of accepting the indubitable fact and trying to find it reasonable, make the mistake of bolstering their argument by super-refinements.

As a matter of fact there is only an apparent contradiction. Those who claim that a zebra, or a topi, or our common deer or any other of the larger animals are when in motion quite the most conspicuous objects in the landscape, are right. My notion is that they are intended to be conspicuous. I have often amused myself when in an abundance of scattered game, inhabiting a broken bush-covered country, by revealing myself suddenly to some little group of animals. Off they would go, helter-skelter as fast as they could run. Those near at hand would follow their example; those farther away would catch the flash of moving bodies—the revealing stripes of the zebras, the flicker of the gazelles, the shifting advertising lines of