

at least till the contrary is proved. And the proof must be actual, not imaginary, facts, not guess work."

Mr. Edwards' definition is very good, but it leaves open the question, What is a "marked character"? That this is a question of opinion will hardly be disputed, and we are thus left as far as ever from a definite reply to our question. I shall not attempt to offer any new definition of a species; but shall in the present essay confine myself to a few instances tending to show that the breeding true to itself is no test of a species, and further that characters to separate species must be sought in other points than color and maculation.

In the Coleoptera no family offers better examples than the Cicindelidæ, and from this family my instances shall be drawn.

The variations of *Cic. 6-guttata* have been recently noted in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST. My own series of the species consists of 31 specimens, ranging from the immaculate form, blue and green in color, to the *patruela* form with complete median fascia, humeral and sub-humeral spots. The variation in this species is very wide, and is found everywhere, except that the *patruela* form is not found eastward.

A more interesting species is *scutellaris*, of which my series comprises 35 specimens.

In the far west—Kansas, Ind. Terr. and thereabouts—we find the type form of a beautiful metallic red bronze, the scutellar space green, maculation indistinct. It is the only form found in the far west, and is perfectly separable from the following.

In the Eastern States (N. Y., R. I., Md. and Mass., according to my collection) we find a form with similar markings, which are, however, much more distinct, but the ground color is a sordid green. This form is also perfectly distinct from any other, and is recognizable at a glance. With similar markings we find an insect locally in N. J. and Pa., which, however, has the ground color black. It is taken year after year in a small spot near Jersey City, and never shows any approach to the preceding or following. It breeds absolutely true to itself; none of the other forms are taken where it flies. In Northern N. Y., Mass. and Can. we find the same form as to markings, but the ground color brown red with the maculation often connected at margin.

In the Southern States we find the same form green or blue without markings, and in Georgia and perhaps in Va. we find an insect obviously the same, but entirely black. We have therefore a range of color variation