

inherent factors." Our own field experience gained among the numerous mountain ranges and intervening valleys of the Western States leads us to fully agree with this belief in specific variation. Others may view all these visible expressions of the influence of surroundings upon the organism as "species," but in this case the analysis of each type by Dr. Blaisdell is so close that the process of further "specific" division resolves itself into a matter of changing the relative rank of his names. Where necessary, the species are divided into named "varieties," to which the author frequently alludes as "races," but which might as properly be called subspecies; these varieties are often subdivided into "formæ," or "incipient races," to which descriptive Latin names are given "as an aid in recording data and as a compromise between unscientific lumping and splitting."

The monograph proper occupies 524 octavo pages, and is illustrated by 13 plates, eight of which deal with genitalia, one with general anatomical structures, three with outlines of pronota and one with the early stages. The table of contents enumerates 73 recognized species and 31 varieties of *Eleodes*, besides three specific names representing types unknown to the author. In *Trogloclerus* we find two species, in *Embaphion* seven, with one variety. The genus *Eleodimorpha*, founded on *E. bolcan*, n. sp., is described as new, as are also a number of species and varieties belonging to the other genera. Unfortunately, neither the table of contents nor the index give any clue as to which of the included names are new, and recourse to the text is necessary to discover the author. This trouble might have been obviated by the inclusion of a complete bibliographic and synonymical list enumerating all the species, varieties and formæ, which would serve not only to indicate the novelities, but also as a convenient guide to cabinet arrangement.

A special feature of the work is the fullness of specific and varietal descriptions. The genealogical diagrams given for each subgenus are interesting. In the arrangement, a few inconsistencies have attracted our attention, for instance, in the table of contents *Eleodes arata* is given as a specific term, while in the text, page 187, it is cited as a synonym of *obscura*, and on page 194 is described as a "forma" of variety *sulcipennis*. Again, *E. tenuipes* and *E. Wickhami* are indicated as specifically distinct in the table of contents, and in the headings of the body of the work, but in the description of the latter the remark is made (on page 299) that "at most *Wickhami* can be only a race of *tenuipes*," which would, by Dr. Blaisdell's system, reduce the name *Wickhami* to varietal rank. On page