

THE RHOPALOCERA OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA.

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Santa Clara County borders on the Bay of San Francisco, extending back therefrom through the Santa Clara Valley to the Santa Cruz Mountains, which perhaps average 2,500 ft. in altitude. Owing to the diversity of the topography, many species are found to be very locally confined. For instance, *Gaëdes gorgon* is but rarely met with in the valley, its habitat being on the hot, dry hillsides where *Eriogonum* thrives. The home of the *Argynnis* is on the highest ridges, and they are seldom seen elsewhere. To the bay region no species are strictly confined, but some of the *Lycenidae* and *Hesperidae* are more abundant there than elsewhere. Along the inner sloughs, where *Salix* occurs, a few species, such as *Papilio rutulus* and *eurymedon*, *Basilarchia Lorquini* and *Limenitis Bredowii*, var. *californica*, which have willow or oak for their food-plant, are common. In the valley proper a great majority of the species occur. There is a sharp distinction in the faunal aspects, although only a few hundred feet difference in altitude between the valley and the foothills. In the hills, *Mimulus* and *Castilleja* furnish food for the *Lemoniids*, which fly in countless numbers. Many species of *Lycenidae* have for their food-plants *Lupinus*, *Æsculus* and *Hosackia*, which occur everywhere in the hills. To the mountain region a number of species, such as *Chrysobia mormo*, *Habrodias grunus* and others, are confined. Thus, one might collect here for years and then not have taken all the species. This localization can be accounted for directly by the range of the food-plants. In the open fields of the valley, *Euchloë sara* and *ausonides* are common, flying about *Brassica*, their food-plant. Ascending into the hills, *ausonides* becomes rarer and higher up is never met with. *Sara*, on the other hand, flies almost everywhere, but I am quite positive that in the hills it has a different food-plant, as mustard is "few and far between," and *sara* is often found far away from it. I might say here that I do not believe in determining species by the localities from which they come. It should be remembered that butterflies, like other insects, must be allowed some variation which the effects of climate, etc., impose upon them. In some of our genera, particularly *Argynnis* and *Lemonias*, which have many western species, a large number of these so-called species will prove but geographical forms of others. Lepidopterists distinguish between *Lemonias Wrightii* and *leanira* because one is from Southern California and the other from farther north. If a ♀ *Wrightii* (from Los Angeles) and a ♂ *leanira* (from San Francisco) should meet, I am sure they would