

the insects in a state of nature, living, in their environment, their manner and hours of flight, their preference for certain foods, their attitude when at rest, and, by no means least in importance, their dates of appearance, are all valuable points to be observed and noted in the forming of specific associations. Long series should be studied, and, bearing all the above points in view, the variation noted, every capture of each successive season examined for fresh phases of variation and specimens sought for at all time to fill in apparent gaps in the varietal gradient. Aim should also be made, not only at uniting dissimilar, but dividing similar forms. For, as already pointed out, neither does dissimilarity always indicate distinctness, nor resemblance uniting of species. Though the most expert will not always succeed in thus successfully associating every specimen that comes to hand, it is astonishing how familiar one having a good eye may become in time with the general facies of different but confusingly variable species. It may happen that he has grouped several forms as probable varieties for years. At last, either by accident, by personal observation, or by having differences pointed out by another person, characters considered specific are noticed, separation of the series made, and though difficulties may occur for a while, in course of time, with more familiarity with the distinguishing points and extent of variation in the different series, the differences may seem so obvious to his eye that he will wonder how he could ever have confused them. This may truly be called becoming familiar with a species in one locality. Yet an attempt to point out differences in two very similar forms—or they may be very dissimilar to his own eye,—to another man, however good a judgment or wide an experience he may possess, in such a way as to equally convince him of two species, especially by the submission to him of a few odd specimens only, may fail completely, owing to the lack in that other man of familiarity with the species, or with its form in that locality at any rate. The eye of the latter man is not accustomed to the slight, and possibly to the former, indefinable differences, which to him may seem, if noticeable at all, varietal.

Too much reliance should not be placed upon the opinion given upon local forms by experts not actually familiar with the form in that particular locality. "Professor Brown called a specimen I sent him by this name, and he has a wide experience, and is generally accepted as the leading authority on this group." Precisely! But unfortunately Prof. Brown does not happen to be familiar with the form as it occurs in that locality, and is quite likely to have been misled into entirely wrong associations by the specimen, or it may have been the few odd specimens submitted to him. Dr. Jones is after all just as much of a