

the reasons for this are obvious. Collecting dates back to much earlier times, and a very large proportion of existing species have been repeatedly bred. Not only is the population far greater than in this country, but the proportion of collectors amongst them is greater also. The latter fact is perhaps due to hobbies being more encouraged, and more people having leisure and opportunities for their pursuit. Access to the best named collections is easier, and there are far more well illustrated books on the subject. From all this it follows that there is a wider interest taken in the study of lepidoptera by those who have a taste for the science, and there is less diversity of opinion as to correct names. On this continent the scarcity of illustrated literature, and difficulty of getting any expert opinion at all, owing to the distances which specimens have to be sent, at considerable risk and trouble, is in itself some deterrent to the few interested, not to mention the time which must elapse before receiving any opinions at all, the difference of opinion received from different quarters, or at different times from the same quarter—it may be even on the same specimen—besides the toll sometimes levied for opinion given, all tend in some degree to discourage the hobby.

The variation in some well known European species of lepidoptera has, by careful breeding from known parents, been proved to be enormous. Some closely allied species which may perhaps be almost exactly alike, show certain slight points of difference which neither ever exceed. In other instances, the prevailing forms of two species may be entirely dissimilar, yet one or both may ordinarily develop varieties looking, to the untrained eye, not only exactly like the other, but like several other usually quite dissimilar species. In a country like England it is rarely that a specimen is found which cannot be recognized by an expert as a known form of some species, notwithstanding its greater resemblance in very many points to other species. It sometimes happens that a species does not possess any characters, whether of color, individual markings, or even shape of wing, which do not vary to apparently well within the limits to which other species extend. Particularly is this the case in the genus *Euxoa*, or *Paragrotis*, as some authors call it. In general, however, such species have, to those familiar with them, something by which the relationship may be correctly discerned, it may be either by a character, or combination of characters, or by the general appearance so confusingly like, yet, in some indefinable way, as a whole, disassociable with, another species. Yet occasionally specimens occur which puzzle even those who know the species best.

A special study is made by many European collectors of local variation. Some species seem to appear in the same form wherever they exist, scarcely varying at all in any essential