

STUDIES IN THE GENUS *INCISALIA*.

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When I began the investigation of these butterflies some years ago, four species referable to the genus *Incisalia* were known to occur in the eastern half of the continent, *irus*, *Henrici*, *augustus* and *niphon*. It was my aim to breed each from egg to imago, and by a careful comparative study to furnish the biological data which would enable anyone taking an active interest in the group to repeat the observations, verify and supplement the facts, and to correct any errors which I may have made. I hoped also by outlining the life-histories of these four species to furnish a basis for the proper study of the western representatives of the genus, a work which is reserved for that lepidopterist of the trans-Mississippi region who will one day arise to tell us something of the early stages of those species known to most of us in the east as dead and dried "specimens" only.

The fact that the species mentioned were the only members of the group which had been recognized in Eastern North America,* lent to the prospective success of the undertaking the added value of a comprehensive study of all the species found over a comparatively wide area.

Recently, however, a fifth species has been unearthed. It was described in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST for June, 1907 (p. 202), as *Incisalia polios*. The discovery of this butterfly within the territory which I had expected to cover made it necessary to work out its life-history or to forego that degree of completeness which I had planned for my review of the genus.

The memory of many days of failure preceding final success in other cases did not lend encouragement to the hope of securing the desired information and material during the brief stay which would be possible at the end of a two-hundred-mile journey, but as nothing can be accomplished without an effort, I determined to make the attempt.

Accordingly, arrangements were made to visit the type locality (Lakewood, N. J.) early in May, 1907, in company with Mr. Frank E. Watson, to whose work the recognition of this species was largely due, and Mr. Chas. H. Sunderland, of Rutherford, N. J., an ardent collector of lepidoptera.

*Unless the *arsace* of Boisduval and Leconte should prove to be entitled to specific distinction.

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