

ON *EUDRYAS STAE. JOHANNIS*, WALK.

BY A. R. GROTE, A. M.

I saw the type of this species in the British Museum and considered it to represent a distinct species, allied to *E. grata*. Prof. Smith says, CAN. ENT., 134, "I have no hesitation in referring the species (?) as a suffused aberrant *grata*." Now the hindwings want the band and are immaculate, hence there is no "suffusion" on the secondaries. The forewings resemble *grata*, but the markings differ. I could see no "suffusion." The specimen seemed larger to me than *grata*. The specimen may be an extraordinary variety of *grata*, but not a "suffused" variety. Prof. Smith says:—"The type is marked 'Taken on the church door at Horsley Downs.'" And further:—"It is probable that in some way the pupa of the insect was transported to England and through the vicissitudes encountered an aberration was produced." This explanation does not seem reasonable to me. I do not know what is meant by "the vicissitudes encountered." Pupæ of *grata* transported to England would probably produce typical *grata*, just as pupæ of other species produce the typical form when they emerge on this side of the water. The voyage could not change a *grata* to a *Stae. Johannis*. I think this is certain. And, now, what did Walker mean by the name? He evidently supposed the specimen was taken at the St. John's River, Florida, and probably by Doubleday. He did not then believe in the authenticity of the label now attached to the species. Or is the church at Horsley Downs named in honor of St. John? The specimen is at any rate evidently American, as the genus *Eudryas* is found nowhere else. It is, as it stands, one of the most curious of the uniques in the British Museum collection. The improbability that it should have been taken on a church door in England (?) is very great. That the label might have been wrongly attached, or changed from some other specimen, seems less improbable when we consider the chances of its being so taken. If a variety of *grata*, or a distinct species, it seems likely that our collectors in Florida may throw some light on the subject in the future. If *grata* varies in this manner, the conditions will probably occur again and the variety be produced. It may be even that the specimen represents a South American species unknown to us. As the case stands, it cannot be called a "suffused" variety I should say, and the mystery is certainly not cleared up by the statements of Prof. Smith. We must find other