

Edwards, calling his attention to the presence of the orange spots. He wrote in reply that he could not tell why some examples of *N. iole* had the orange spot and others not, but it was a very variable species. On March 5th I received the box I had sent, and in it my specimen of *N. iole*, which, to my great astonishment, had *completely lost the orange spots*,—they having become pale yellow, the colour of the rest of the wing (except the black portion), only somewhat glossy. The orange shade on the under side of the primaries, near the costal margin, had not faded in the least. Supposing that the butterfly might have been submitted to some unusual influence while in Mr. Edwards' hands, I wrote to him asking the exact circumstances under which he had kept it, and he replied as follows: "The particular specimen which you sent and I returned never was outside your box, and the latter rested on top of one of my insect cases, so that no chemical influence was brought to bear on it. Last year I raised several *iole* imagos from larvæ, and the males. I think all had the orange spot; I am sure some had. On looking at them now (March 16), I find *no orange at all*." So it is perfectly clear that the orange spot in *Nathalis* is of a peculiar nature, and is further liable to fade, which process is not one of continuous and gradual bleaching due to the action of light—because my specimen was all the time in a closed box in perfect darkness, and the orange remained as vivid as ever up to the time that I sent the insect to Mr. Edwards—but is more or less sudden, and apparently due to change in the *constitution* of a complex pigment, rather than its destruction. However this may be, I think that however insignificant this question may seem from the point of view of the systematist, it is one which the evolutionist will recognize as demanding his careful attention, and this must be my excuse for dealing with it at so great a length.

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NOTE ON A GERMAN EDITION OF ROSS'S SECOND  
VOYAGE (1829-1833).

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A copy of a German translation of Ross's Second Voyage lately fell into my hands, and I make the following bibliographical note upon the descriptions of Lepidoptera there given. The translation is by Julius, Graf von der Gröben, Lieutenant in K. Pr. Reg. Garde du corps, and the third part or volume is published in Berlin, 1836. This volume (8 vo.)