

One good specimen of a coin is sufficient for description, but insects are not stamped from dies like coins, and all species vary more or less, and if an author has before him a fair representation of the range of variation of the species, his description can be made to much better cover the species than if drawn up from a single specimen. Of course, it is of the greatest importance that all danger of having more than one species in the series selected be avoided, but even should such an error be made, the plan which I have adopted would work automatically to establish the species intended. My plan is to number all the types. The best, and what I believe to be the most typical ♂, I name type No. 1, and the best and most typical ♀ type No. 2. The others are numbered consecutively, as far as possible, according to their closeness to type No. 1. Should, unfortunately, another species be discovered among the types, it must be given a new name, type No. 1 being the final standard for the species. Should type No. 1 be unfortunately destroyed, type No. 2 would then become the final standard.

When a species is very distinct and not very closely allied to any other species, types of any kind are of minor importance, as, for instance, in the case of such a species as *Vanessa Antiopa*, the preservation of the type would be of no consequence beyond the interest necessarily attaching to a specimen described by the great Linnæus.

When the type of a species has been lost or destroyed, a topo-type might be of great importance in re-establishing the species.

In the Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil., 1862, Mr. W. H. Edwards described a species under the name of *Lycæna Pembina*. The types were brought from the shores of Lake Winnipeg by R. W. Kennicott. Unfortunately, the types were afterwards lost, and Mr. Edwards could not afterwards certainly identify anything as the same. Strecker thought he had identified it with the species later described by Grote under the name *Glaucopsyche Couperi*, but he afterwards admitted his error, and in his catalogue designated it as unknown to him. Scudder thought, after a "prolonged study" of all the N. A. Blues, that it was the same as *Lycæna Lycea*, Edw., of which *L. Arapahoe*, Reak., is accounted a synonym, but that also proved erroneous. In such a case as that, topo-types would be exceedingly valuable, and should render it possible to clear up the mystery surrounding the name.