

16. *Neope goschkevitschii* Ménétrière larva on *Pleioblastus* (Gramineæ). D. P.
17. *Mycalesis gotama fulginia* Fruhstorfer larva on *Oryza*, *Oplismenus*, etc. (Gramineæ). D. L.
18. *Mycalesis francisca perdiccas* Hewitson larva on *Oplismenus*, etc. (Gramineæ). D. L.
19. *Cænonympha ædippus annulifer* Butler larva on Cyperaceæ. S. L.
20. *Cænonympha hero neoperseis* Fruhstorfer larva on Cyperaceæ. S. L.
21. *Melanitis leda* Linné ?larva on Gramineæ. D. A.?
22. *Melanitis phedima oitensis* Matsumura larva on *Miscanthus*, *Zea*, *Coix*, *Setaria*, *Saccharum*, etc. (Gramineæ). D. A.

4 Shinhanacho, Hongo, Tokyo, JAPAN

THE NAMING OF SUBSPECIES IN LEPIDOPTERA

The great proliferation of subspecific names within the Lepidoptera in the past twenty-five years has posed a problem which the authors feel is important to all lepidopterists. The purpose of this note is not to condemn the practice of naming subspecies but rather to propose that the following partly accepted criteria be observed more consistently by those who would describe new races.

1. That new subspecies be named primarily in papers which discuss the geographic variation of the entire species as fully as possible.

2. That isolated descriptions of subspecies be made only in such species as have already been analyzed in the above manner.

We feel that the advantages to be gained from such a procedure are considerable. In the first place, this would cut down the naming of populations later found to be intermediate in a cline. Secondly, it would gather the names applied to the subspecies of a species together into a few rather than many scattered publications. Thirdly, and perhaps most important, it would reduce the necessity for later writers of synonymizing numerous names found not worthy of retention when the whole species population is reviewed. One only needs to look at the taxonomy of a genus like *Parnassius* to see the terrific systematic confusion that can result from ill-considered, over-enthusiastic naming of infraspecific entities. We sincerely hope that the above criteria will be followed in the naming of subspecies in order that a ponderous accumulation of trivial names in the Lepidoptera can be avoided.

NICHOLAS W. GILLHAM, Biology Labs., Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass., U.S.A.
PAUL R. EHRLICH, Dept. of Entomology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans., U.S.A.