

Additions may yet be expected from the Atlantic slope of Chiriqui, in the State of Panama, and from the Isthmus of Darien, districts almost unworked; and, to judge from a small collection made by Mr. Becker in the neighbourhood of Durango city, other northern forms are likely to occur in that part of Mexico.

Two important collections of Rhopalocera acquired long ago by us have been of great assistance in working out the Central-American species, viz., that of H. W. Bates, including the first set of his captures on the Amazons (in all 11,450 specimens), and that of Herbert Druce, containing the types of many Costa Rican insects described by Dr. Butler and himself. The late Dr. Staudinger, to whom our thanks are due, communicated numerous types of Mabilie and Herrich-Schäffer, so that we have been able to determine with certainty many of the species described by these authors; we are also indebted to M. Charles Oberthür, of Rennes, for assistance in the identification of various insects described by Boisduval. On the other hand, all our attempts to obtain the loan of Plötz's quoted (but unpublished) figures of Hesperiidæ were unsuccessful, and we have been compelled to leave many of his species unidentified, the descriptions being in most cases inadequate for the purpose. I must also here record my special thanks to Mr. Champion for the valuable assistance he has rendered me, especially in the completion of the Hesperiidæ, since Salvin's death.

Following our usual custom, we have given a distinctive specific name, in preference to a varietal one, to such forms (more especially in the genus *Papilio*) as seemed to be confined to a particular district, even if the differences were not very important. Since we attach but very little value to relative size, no measurements have, as a rule, been given; our numerous figures, however, which are all drawn natural size when the entire insect is shown, will supply this deficiency. Where no sex is mentioned in the diagnosis, it must be understood that the characters are in almost every case taken from the male.

Of the 113 hand-coloured Plates (including XXIV. *a*), thirty-four were drawn by Mr. R. F. H. Rippon, the remainder by Mr. W. Purkiss, illustrating altogether about 1250 species. The dissections of the genitalia and other preparations were made either by Mr. A. Cant or by Salvin himself.

In conclusion, it is a matter of regret that Dr. Holland's excellent work on North-American butterflies, the second edition of which was published in 1900, reached us