

# BUTTERFLIES OF CALIFORNIA—Continued

By

JOHN ADAMS COMSTOCK, M. A., M. D., F. E. S.

## GENUS PIERIS.

**Cabbage Butterfly** (*Pieris rapae*, L.) This is one of the most serious pests of North America. It feeds upon members of the cabbage family, with a resultant loss of millions of dollars to the truck gardeners of the United States. Like many other pests it is polygeneitic, or in other words produces many generations in a season. The mild climate of California allows it to propagate throughout practically the entire year.

**Rapae** is not a native of the Americas, but like the English sparrow, is an undesirable migrant from the old world. It was first reported in Quebec about 1860, and rapidly spread over the entire continent.

An aberrant yellow form of this species occurs in the north eastern portion of North America, which is sufficiently distinct to have been given the name of **novangliae** Scud. (**The Tinted Cabbage White**). It has not, thus far, been recorded from our state, but the boreal environment of our uplands may not unlikely produce it in time, and it is, therefore, pictured in plate IX, figure 14. The normal form is shown in figures 13 and 15 of the same plate. This will be subsequently published in the "Bulletin."

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Color plate VIII shown in this issue is illustrative of the text published in the "Bulletins" for March-April 1924, and July-August 1924.

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## A NEW RECORD FOR CALIFORNIA

The writer has received from Dr. Frank Clark of Santa Monica a specimen of *Papilio polydamas*, Linn. which was taken in the Miramar Hotel gardens on September 16th of this year. This *Papilio* has not previously been recorded for California. Its normal habitat is the West Indies, Mexico, Central and parts of South America. The only points in the United States from which it has heretofore been recorded are Florida and Texas, where it is by no means common.

It is possible that this specimen was introduced as a chrysalis on some exotic plant and that it will remain an isolated record. On the other hand it may have come north from Mexico and may now have a foothold in the States. If so we may consider that the environment is not conducive to its permanent establishment since the normal food plant of this particular group of *Papilios* is *Aristolochia*. So far as we know this Genus of plants is not native to southern California although a few of the vines may have been used here, as in the east, for trellis and porch-shading purposes.

Another *Papilio* which feeds on the same genus of plants is *P. philenor*. This *Papilio* has frequently been recorded for southern California and may have adopted some new food plant. The Mexican immigrant therefore, may be able to change its feeding habits in the same manner.

Our lepidopterists are asked to be on the lookout for this southern visitor, and to send their records to the Southwest Museum. In this manner we may be able to determine whether or not it has become established in the state.

JOHN A. COMSTOCK.