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NOTE ON *HESPERIA LUCANUS* FABRICIUS (LEPIDOPTERA)

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PROFESSOR G. D. HALE CARPENTER having kindly allowed me to examine Jones' *Icones* at the Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford University Museum, I am now in a position to show that this name should not be applied to any Australian *Lycaenid*.

Fabricius (1793, *Ent. Syst.*, 3 (1) : 322, n. 221) described *Hesp. lucanus*, citing "Jon. fig. pict. 6, tab. 36, fig. 3. Habitat in Indiis Dom. Drury."

Donovan (1800, *Ins. India*, pl. XLIII, fig. 4) figures the upperside only of this species, cites the reference to Fabricius and quotes the shorter Fabrician description and gives an English translation of it.

An examination of Jones' *Icones* shows a painting of both the upperside and underside on plate 38 in what is now volume V, with the superscription "Fabricis E. S. 221. LUCANUS Drury." The underside shows that *lucanus* is certainly not Australian but very probably a species of *LIPTEININAE* from Africa. Mr. G. Talbot was with me when this examination was made and agrees with this conclusion.

The Australian species hitherto passing under the Fabrician name *lucanus* must now be known as *Lucia limbaria* Swainson (1833, *Zool. Illust.* (2) 3 : [29], pl. 135). It is curious to note that it was Swainson himself, when describing *L. limbaria*, who suggested that his species might be *H. lucanus* Fab. and so caused the confusion. Butler (1869, *Cat. Fabr. Lep. Brit. Mus.*, : 178) considered *H. lucanus* Fab. to be Australian and referred to a pair obtained in 1846 from Herr J. J. Becker. I have before me what is probably this pair; both bear a disc with 46-46 and the register shows that this collection was purchased from Becker. They are, however, "*Thecla*" *aurifer* Blanchard and not *L. limbaria* Swainson, and still less *H. lucanus* Fabr. Kirby (1871, *Syn. Cat. diurn. Lep.*, : 337) seems to have been the first to place *L. limbaria* Swainson as a synonym of *H. lucanus* Fabr.

There are still specimens of *Paralucia aurifer* Blanchard in the British Museum with the specific name *lucanus* on their labels.

*Chrysophamus discifer* Herr.-Schaeffer (1869, *Stettin. ent. Ztg.*, 30 : 72, pl. 4, fig. 21) is a synonym.



