

distinguishing and describing the different forms of animals and plants, have endeavoured, above all things, to distinguish accurately kindred forms as so many "good species." However, it has been found scarcely possible, in any group, to make an accurate and consistent distinction of such "genuine or good species." There are no two zoologists, no two botanists, who agree in all cases as to which of the nearly related forms of a genus are good species, and which are not. All authors have different views about them. In the genus *Hieracium*, for example, one of the commonest genera of European plants, no less than 300 species have been distinguished in Germany alone. The botanist Fries, however, only admits 106, Koch only 52, as "good species," and others accept scarcely 20. The differences in the species of brambles (*Rubus*) are equally great. Where one botanist makes more than a hundred species, a second admits only about one half of that number, a third only five or six, or even fewer species. The birds of Germany have long been very accurately known. Bechstein, in his careful "Natural History of German Birds," has distinguished 367 species, L. Reichenbach 379, Meyer and Wolff 406, and Brehm, a clergyman learned in ornithology, distinguishes even more than 900 different species. With regard to the Calcareous Sponges, I have myself shown that these exceedingly variable zoophytes can, at will, be distinguished as 3 species, or 21, or 111, or 289, or even 591 species. As it was impossible for me in this Monography to distinguish "good species" in the usual sense of the word, my work might as well be considered "An Attempt at an Analytical Solution of the Problem of the Origin of Species," for I devoted five years of most