

MEGALICHTHYS AND RHIZODUS (PISCES, RHIPIDISTIA):
PROPOSAL FOR THE STABILIZATION OF THESE GENERIC NAMES.
Z.N.(S.) 1690

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Recent studies on the relationships of rhipidistian fishes (e.g. Thomson, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.*, Harvard, 131 : 285–312) have made necessary a request for formal stabilization of the common usage of the generic names *Megalichthys* and *Rhizodus*.

1. The genus *Megalichthys* was named by Agassiz (Agassiz in Hibbert, 1835, *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh* 13 : 169–282) for remains of a large “sauroid” fish that had been discovered in the Carboniferous limestone quarry at Burdiehouse near Edinburgh. The remains of this “large fish” had been mentioned in several contexts (such as Hibbert’s report to the Geological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1834, published 1835, and in Agassiz’s address to the same meetings). But these instances do not constitute definite “indication” in the sense of the 1961 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Hibbert’s was the first scientific account and the first proper description.

The remains consisted of some large teeth, some smaller teeth, and scales of assorted sizes. These specimens had been shown, during the 1834 British Association meetings, to Agassiz who was then in Great Britain collecting material for his “*Poissons Fossiles*”. At the time there was much controversy in scientific circles about whether such remains were *sauroid* (i.e. resembling reptiles) or *saurian* (actually pertaining to reptiles). Agassiz and Buckland decided to settle the matter and, subsequently visiting various public museums in England, they found in the Leeds Museum a rather complete head and partial trunk (now in the British Museum (Natural History), no. P.42516) of a sauroid fish from the Yorkshire coalfields. This, they decided, was identical with the Burdiehouse material. The problem of the *nature* of the Burdiehouse remains was thus solved and “. . . after M. Agassiz had . . . established that these teeth and certain other osseous remains of Burdiehouse belonged to a sauroid fish . . . he considered it as a new genus to which he gave the name *Megalichthys*; and to the species found at Burdiehouse he added the name *Megalichthys hibberti*.” (Hibbert, *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh* 13 : 202).

2. Fleming in October 1835 (some eight months after Hibbert’s description, above) described some remains of *Megalichthys hibberti* (now in Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, no. 1950.38.58) under the name of *Ichthyolithus clackmanensis* (*Edinburgh New Philos. Jour.* 191 : 314–316).

3. In 1837 Sir Philip Egerton (*A systematic and stratigraphic catalogue of the fossil fishes in the cabinets of Lord Cole and Sir Philip Grey Egerton . . . Revised Edition*, London. 20 pp.) uses the name *Holoptychius hibberti* in addition to the name *Megalichthys hibbertii** for specimens in his possession

* The spelling of the specific name *hibberti* or *hibbertii* seems to have varied with the preference of the author.

from Burdiehouse. Egerton cites as his authority for the former "Agassiz mss." Also in 1837, Buckland (*Geology and mineralogy considered with reference to natural theology*. London, 2 vols., 552 pp.) uses the names *Holoptychus*† and *Megalichthys* and the authority for this, although not stated, was probably also "Agassiz mss." since most of Agassiz's friends in Britain seem to have had access to Agassiz's notes and intentions in advance of publication.

Buckland, however, has confused the picture somewhat: in the text of his work (1837, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, p. 275) he states that "plate 27, figures 11, 12, 13, 14, represent teeth from . . . the fishes . . . referred by M. Agassiz to a new genus *Megalichthys*." In the explanation of the plates appearing in volume two of the same work Buckland states that "plate 27, figures, 11, 13, 14" are *Holoptychus hibberti* and "figure 12" is *Megalichthys hibberti* (p. 43). The acknowledged source of the figures is Hibbert's 1835 treatise.

4. Whatever the reason for this confusion, and regardless of what meaning Buckland actually intended to convey, the fact remains that someone, probably Agassiz himself, had recognized that the Burdiehouse remains represented two different fishes (of which one corresponded with the specimen then in the Leeds Museum). In 1840 Owen (*Odontography*, London, 2 vols., 655 pp.) made this distinction formal by applying to the larger teeth from Burdiehouse the new generic name *Rhizodus*. But Owen states that the new genus *Rhizodus* is named to replace *Holoptychius hibberti* Agassiz, and presumably, since Owen did not name a type-species of *Rhizodus*, he assumed that it would simply take over specific name of "*Holoptychius*" *hibberti* Agassiz. Unfortunately, Owen's authority for the latter name must have been an unpublished Agassiz manuscript for the name does not appear in "*Poisson Fossiles*" until 1843, when Agassiz merely cites the names, in a list, as "*Holoptychius hibberti* Owen (*Rhizodus*), Burdiehouse." The specimens concerned are the large teeth and scales from Burdiehouse (figured by Hibbert and Buckland) as well as the specimen figured by Owen (locality unknown).

5. Agassiz finally (*Récherches sur les Poissons Fossiles*, volume 2, 310 pp. 1843) described the Leeds specimen (and other material which he considered to belong to a second species *M. falcatus*), but he did not mention whether or not he still considered any of the Burdiehouse material to belong to the genus *Megalichthys*. In fact he only states that "on en a découvert dans le pays de Galles, dans les environs de Manchester, près de Stafford et dans les environs de Glasgow." This list may by no means be considered complete since the actual specimen Agassiz was describing came from Yorkshire.

6. In 1853 Owen (*Q.J. Geol. Soc. London* 9 : 67-70) described as a new amphibian, *Parabatrachus colei*, a specimen which later (Young, 1868, *Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Glasgow* (N.S.) 1 : 174-176) was shown to be the maxilla of *Megalichthys hibberti* (*sensu* Agassiz).

7. M'Coy (1855 in Sedgwick and M'Coy, *The British Palaeozoic Rocks and Fossils*, Cambridge, 661 pp.) seems to have been the first to realize the anomaly in the nomenclature of *Rhizodus* and *Megalichthys*. He noted that, in dis-

† Apparently a misprint for *Holoptychius*.

regard of the facts of the case, the "Leeds Head" was considered to be the type of *Megalichthys hibberti* and the Burdiehouse specimens were considered to belong to *Rhizodus hibberti*. M'Coy decided "against my better judgement . . . (to) . . . leave it as it is."

There is little doubt that the name *Megalichthys* was originally intended to describe the "big fish" of Burdiehouse which is now known as *Rhizodus*. However, there is similarly little doubt that when Hibbert used the name *Megalichthys hibberti* he meant it to apply to the Burdiehouse remains—the "teeth and certain other osseous remains"—mentioned above, and these remains, which included both "*Rhizodus*" and "*Megalichthys*" were the true types of *Megalichthys* Agassiz in Hibbert 1835.

8. Thus, Traquair (1884, *Geol. Mag.* (3) 1: 115–121) noted that the material ("scales and bones . . . actually figured under that name (*M. hibberti*) along with [my italics, KST] remains of *Rhizodus* by Dr. Hibbert" *op. cit.* p. 118) still remaining in the genus *Megalichthys* has priority concerning the specific name *hibberti*, but, having concluded that the Burdiehouse *Megalichthys* is different from the Leeds material, and acquiescing to the popular conception that the latter forms the type of *Megalichthys hibberti*, he described the Burdiehouse *Megalichthys* with the aid of new material collected there by Hugh Miller, as the new species *Megalichthys laticeps*.

9. The position taken by M'Coy and Traquair was accepted by Smith-Woodward in his *Catalogue of Fossil Fishes in the British Museum* (London 1891, Volume 2, 567 pp.) and this authority has been followed by all subsequent authors (with the exception of Hay, *Bibliography and Catalogue of the Fossil Vertebrata of North America, U.S. Geol. Surv.*, 1902; and Jordan, *A Classification of Fishes*, Stanford, 1923). Berg (*System der rezenten und fossilen Fischartigen und Fische*, 1958, Deutscher Verlag, Berlin, 310 pp.) also follows Smith-Woodward's practice, noting the anomaly in the nomenclature.

10. In a recent study of the situation (Thomson, 1964, *op. cit.*) I have given a review of the situation (from which this account is condensed). There is little doubt that according to the strictest application of the Rules of Nomenclature *Rhizodus hibberti* Owen, 1840, should be renamed *Megalichthys hibberti* Agassiz in Hibbert 1835. Similarly the genus now universally known as *Megalichthys* Agassiz, 1843, ought to be renamed *Parabatrachus* Owen, 1853, with type-species *clackmanensis* Fleming 1835. However, as detailed above, this has never been common usage.

The common usage of the names *Megalichthys* and *Rhizodus* has remained unchanged since at least 1855 and has been followed by all active ichthyologists from Agassiz to the present time. The conclusion of any study of the situation must be that the present usage should formally be adopted. In connection with the study mentioned above (Thomson, 1964), it may be proposed that the "Leeds" specimen of *Megalichthys* (British Museum (Natural History) number P.42516) be adopted under the plenary powers as the neotype of *Megalichthys hibberti* Agassiz, 1835, and that the large mandibular tooth figured by Hibbert (1835, *op. cit.* pl. 9, fig. 2) now in the Royal Scottish Museum (no. 1950.38.63) be adopted as the holotype of *Rhizodus hibberti* Owen, 1840. Furthermore it is

necessary to request the Commission to use its plenary powers to validate the species name *R. hiberni* Owen as a name distinct from *M. hiberni* Agassiz.

It is now possible to clarify the situation concerning the genus currently named *Holoptychius*. As we have seen, the name *Holoptychus* (sic) first appears in Egerton (1837) who borrowed it from an unpublished manuscript of Agassiz. This was repeated by Buckland (1837), in a confused manner. In both cases the material referred to is now known as *Rhizodus hiberni* Owen, 1840, and this earlier usage is to be suppressed. The next usage of the name is by Agassiz in Murchison (1839) in description of the species *Holoptychius nobilissimus*. This usage is currently accepted as correct (see Smith-Woodward, 1891, *op. cit.*: 323). The Commission is thus requested to place the genus *Holoptychius* Agassiz in Murchison, 1839, on the Official List, with *H. nobilissimus* as the type-species. The type specimen is specimen number P.6258 in the collections of the Department of Palaeontology of the British Museum (Natural History).

The Commission is therefore requested:

(1) to use its plenary powers:

- (a) to set aside all designations of type specimen for the nominal species *Megalichthys hiberni* Agassiz, 1835, and having done so to designate the specimen named herein to be the neotype of that species;
- (b) to validate the specific name *hiberni* Owen, 1840, as published in the binomen *Rhizodus hiberni*, as a name distinct from *Megalichthys hiberni* Agassiz, 1835;
- (c) to suppress the generic names *Holoptychius* Egerton, 1837, and *Holoptychus* Buckland, 1837, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy;

(2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) *Megalichthys* Agassiz, 1835 (gender : masculine), type-species, by monotypy; *Megalichthys hiberni* Agassiz, 1835;
- (b) *Rhizodus* Owen, 1840 (gender : masculine), type-species by monotypy; *Rhizodus hiberni* Owen, 1840;
- (c) *Holoptychius* Agassiz, 1839 (gender : masculine), type-species by monotypy, *Holoptychius nobilissimus* Agassiz, 1839;

(3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *hiberni* Agassiz, 1835, as published in the binomen *Megalichthys hiberni*, as defined by the neotype designated under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above (type-species of *Megalichthys* Agassiz, 1835);
- (b) *hiberni* Owen, 1840, as published in the binomen *Rhizodus hiberni*, as defined by the neotype designated herein;
- (c) *nobilissimus* Agassiz, 1839, as published in the binomen *Holoptychius nobilissimus* (type-species of *Holoptychius* Agassiz, 1839);

(4) to place the generic names suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (c) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

ANTHOCORIS NIGRELLUS ZETTERSTEDT, 1838, *ANTHOCORIS NIGRICORNIS* ZETTERSTEDT, 1838 AND *LYGAEUS PYGMAEUS* FALLÉN, 1807 (INSECTA, HEMIPTERA) : PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF NEO-TYPES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1732

By J. Pericart (10 rue Habert, Montereau 77, France)

While engaged in a revision of the European Anthocoridae, it became necessary to examine the type-specimens of certain species of *Elatophilus* Reuter, 1884, and *Acompocoris* Reuter, 1875.

Thanks to the courtesy of Dr. Hugo Andersson of the Zoological Institute, Lund, Sweden, I was able to borrow the type series of the following species :

- (a) *Anthocoris nigrella* (sic)* Zetterstedt, 1838—*Elatophilus nigrellus* (Zetterstedt);
- (b) *Anthocoris stigmatella* (sic) Zetterstedt, 1838—*Elatophilus stigmatellus* (Zetterstedt);
- (c) *Anthocoris nigricornis* Zetterstedt, 1838—*Elatophilus nigricornis* (Zetterstedt);
- (d) *Lygaeus pygmaeus* Fallén, 1807—*Acompocoris pygmaeus* (Fallén)—*A. lucorum* Fallén, 1829 (*Hemipt. Sveciae* : 67) an objective synonym.

2. A study of this material at once showed that Reuter in his monumental *Monographia Anthocoridarum Orbis Terrestris*, 1884, had misidentified the Zetterstedt and Fallén species mentioned above. Only *Anthocoris stigmatella* (sic) Zetterstedt represented the species as identified by Reuter. Actually the other species on examination of the type series proved to be as follows:

- (a) The type series of *Anthocoris nigrella* (sic) Zetterstedt consisted of two females bearing the numbers 381 and 382, with a red "Typ" label and a name label "*Anthocoris nigrella*". Both these specimens belonged to *Xylocoris cursitans* Fallén, 1807;
- (b) The type series of *Anthocoris nigricornis* Zetterstedt consisted of three females bearing the numbers 384, 385 and 386, with the same red "Typ" label and a name label "*Anthocoris nigricornis*". All these specimens were *Acompocoris* species in too bad a state for identification; all Zetterstedt's material mentioned above had been collected at Lycksele in Sweden;
- (c) The type series of *Lygaeus pygmaeus* Fallén consisted of one male and one female specimen of *Anthocoris minki* Dohrn, 1860.

3. It at once became necessary to examine the original material on which Reuter had based his identifications in the 1884 monograph. Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Martin Meinander of the Museum of the Zoological Institute, Helsinki, Finland, I was able to study this material. It conformed to the descriptions published by Reuter in the monograph which have been followed by all Hemipterists for the last 80 years. It seems impossible that Reuter did not receive typical material, for his revision, from Sweden. It is likely that the

*[*Anthocoris* is a masculine genus]

original series from which he received specimens were composite series and that the present "Typ" labels were later placed on specimens left behind at Lund and not sent to Reuter.

4. Whatever the cause, it would create very great confusion in Anthocorid nomenclature to apply the Code strictly in this case and to identify the nominal species from the specimens labelled "Typ" in the Lund Museum. This is particularly so in view of the fact that *Anthocoris nigrella* (sic) Zetterstedt, 1838, is the type-species of the genus *Elatophilus* Reuter, 1884, and *Lygaeus pygmaeus* Fallén is the type-species of *Acompocoris* Reuter, 1875.

It will be necessary in order to maintain stability and current usage, to set aside the type material in the Lund Museum and to designate neotypes from the Reuter collection in Helsinki, for the three species in question. This will conserve the unanimously agreed identity of the nominal species which has existed for 80 years.

The setting aside of the original type series and the designation of neotypes while "syntypes" still exist, will demand the use of the plenary powers.

5. The International Commission is therefore requested :

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside the original type material for the following species in the Lund Zoological Museum and to designate neotypes as follows:

(a) *Anthocoris nigrellus* (correction of *nigrella*) Zetterstedt, 1838, (*Ins. Lapp.*: 265). Neotype : a female in the Reuter Collection preserved in the Museum of the Zoological Institute, Helsinki, Finland; No. 13915, bearing the locality label "Karelia";

(b) *Anthocoris nigricornis* Zetterstedt, 1838, (*Ins. Lapp.*: 265). Neotype : a female in the Reuter Collection preserved in the Museum of the Zoological Institute, Helsinki, Finland; No. 13916 bearing the locality label "Pargas";

(c) *Lygaeus pygmaeus* Fallén, 1807 (*Mon. Cimicum Sveciae*: 73). Neotype : a female in the Reuter Collection, preserved in the Museum of the Zoological Institute, Helsinki, Finland; No. 14555 bearing the locality label "Pargas";

(2) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *nigrellus* Zetterstedt, 1838, as published in the binomen *Anthocoris nigrella* (sic), as interpreted by the neotype designated under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above, (type-species of *Elatophilus* Reuter, 1884);

(b) *nigricornis* Zetterstedt, 1838, as published in the binomen *Anthocoris nigricornis*, as interpreted by the neotype designated under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above;

(c) *stigmatella* Zetterstedt, 1838, as published in the binomen *Anthocoris stigmatella*;

(d) *pygmaeus* Fallén, 1807, as published in the binomen *Anthocoris pygmaeus*, as interpreted by the neotype designated under the plenary powers in (1) (c) above (type-species of *Acompocoris* Reuter, 1875);

- (3) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology :
- (a) *Elatophilus* Reuter, 1884 (gender : masculine) type-species, by designation by Kirkaldy, 1906, *Anthocoris nigrellus* Zetterstedt, 1838;
 - (b) *Acomporis* Reuter, 1875, (gender : masculine) type-species, by designation by Kirkaldy, 1906, *Lygaeus pygmaeus* Fallén, 1807.

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ZETTERSTEDT, J. W. 1838. *Insecta Lapponica descr.* : 265

REQUEST FOR REVISION OF THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE RELATING TO THE FUNCTION OF CONSERVATION OF NAMES. Z.N.(S.) 1734

By Charles A. Long and Hobart M. Smith (*Department of Zoology and Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.*)

It is regrettable that in the 1962 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature the Principle of Conservation (sometimes called the Law of Prescription) is neither defined nor discussed. Concepts of the Principle and its implementation have undergone several modifications since it first appeared in a communication by Dr. H. Lemche (*Bull. Zool. Nomencl.*, 3 : 158-161, 1950), and have involved the following suggested procedures : (1) setting priority aside to avoid replacing well-established and long-used names by senior synonyms that were long overlooked and last printed prior to 1850; (2) referring any disruptive name to the International Commission for a decision concerning its use, and, furthermore, prohibiting its use unless it is sanctioned by the International Commission; (3) retention of long-used names and *rejection* of problematical or long-overlooked names; and (4) suppression of long-overlooked names (*nomina oblita*). The last procedure is vague and merely one important facet of the Principle.

Concerning conservation of names, Follett (an unofficial interpretation of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature . . ., 1955) discussed the official lists and indices; his definitions indicate that a name conserved (placed on an official list) is to be used in "preference" to any other name. Nothing is said concerning two or more conserved names found to be synonyms. Bradley's remarkable official draft of the English text of the International Code (*Bull. Zool. Nomencl.*, 14 : 7-285, 1957) briefly mentions the Principle, lists, and indices, but little is found regarding them in the 1961 and present codes, despite the need for universal clarity of purpose and procedures. Our purpose here is to discuss the process of conservation of names and to suggest emendation to the present code in order to remedy its deficiencies relative to conservation of names.

An officially rejected name is agreed to be of no further consequence to nomenclature, except as individually specified. On the other hand, we *assume* that a conserved name is always by virtue of its appearance on an official list not only itself secure from threat, but is a potential danger to nomenclatural stability merely by its availability through becoming a junior synonym of other, well-established or even conserved names. In fact, the entire role of the official lists of conserved names needs to be re-evaluated inasmuch as conservation of names not only is a threat to other names but may in most cases be circumvented without loss of the desired end of nomenclatural stability by simple suppression of disruptive names. Unbridled augmentation of the official lists appears to us not only unnecessary but also potentially dangerous to stability, in the long run. Obviously, problems that will arise whereby conserved names endanger well-established names could be solved by suppression of the former under the plenary powers; but removal of names from official lists would

materially weaken confidence in and function of them as a working tool. Practicality *requires* stability of lists and indices.

Presumably the function of official lists are (1) to conserve names in cases where suppression is not involved, but where for example they may be incorrectly proposed (lacking proper qualifications, such as description, or found in works inconsistently binomial), or where the names would otherwise be reversed in applicability, etc.; and (2) to protect a desired name beyond the specific stipulations of a given case brought before the Commission, that is against future threats which in fact might derive from well-established names. Surely in every case of conservation concomitant with suppression the name proposed for conservation must be judged to be a very useful name, the conservation of which might, for example, be obviously of benefit to general or applied zoology (see Hemming's introductory note, in the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, 1958). A problem unanticipated by the present Code is the possibility that two conserved names may become synonyms, or that a conserved name may become a junior synonym of a better known but unconserved name. This latter problem is surely intensified by conservation of subspecific names. For the reasons mentioned above, placement of a name on an official list of conserved names therefore should be accomplished only after very close scrutiny by the petitioner and the Commission.

The practice of suppressing threatening names with concomitant conservation of the threatened name is fast becoming customary. In proposals before the Commission we know of one by Glass and Baker (*Bull. Zool. Nomencl.*, **22** (3) : 204-205, 1965) and two by Long (*ibid.*, **21** : 318-320, 370-371, 1964) wherein suppression seems in our present opinion worthwhile, but conservation of the threatened names unnecessary. If the *nomen oblitum* rule were revised so that *nomina oblita* are never available nor ordinarily brought before the Commission the requisite listing and indexing of names by the Commission would be greatly reduced. Automatic rejection of *nomina oblita* from nomenclature by the taxonomist himself has been practiced by Hoffmeister and Lee (*J. Mamm.*, **44** : 510, 1963); and certainly their procedure, while not strictly in accordance with provisions of the present Code, appears to us to be superior and relatively simple, avoiding delay and needless appeals.

To summarize, we suggest emendation of the Code (1) to define and discuss the Principle of Conservation, which once involved *retention* of long-established names as well as *rejection* of long-overlooked or forgotten names (the *nomen oblitum* rule does not specify the former); (2) to state that conservation may usually be achieved by rejection of a disruptive name, and need not always require listing of the desired name on an official list; (3) to define and discuss all of the official lists and indices and most certainly to state their functions; (4) to express the need for continued stability of such lists and indices; and (5) to specify the entire procedure from nomenclatural problem to official judgment wherein validity of one of two or more conserved names is established. We further urge that the Commission reject totally or in part all proposals involving conservation of threatened names by placement of the desired name on an official list, except where official conservation is demonstrably essential to achievement of a stable and universal nomenclature.

PHLAEOTHrips HALIDAY, 1836 (INSECTA, THYSANOPTERA) :
 PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE
 PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1741

By L. A. Mound (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

1. This application concerns the designation under the plenary powers, of a type-species for the genus *Phlaeothrips* Haliday, 1836, p. 441 to replace *Phlaeothrips ulmi* Blanchard, 1845 nec Fabricius, the identity of which is unknown.

2. The genus *Phlaeothrips* Haliday, 1836, was established for seven species including *pedicularia* n.sp., *ulmi* Fabricius, 1781, and *coriacea* n.sp. No type-species was designated.

3. In 1840 in his *Introduction to the Modern Classification of Insects, Synopsis*: 45, Westwood unfortunately failed to indicate a type-species for *Phlaeothrips* Haliday in the manner adopted in the body of the work as validated in opinion 71. Instead he gave an abbreviated copy of Haliday's list in the form of a key :

“Sect. A. Ocelli & wings 0. 1 sp. *P. pedicularia*.

Sect. AA. Ocelli 3; wings complete or abbreviated.

Subs. B. Sides of head parallel. 5 sp. *P. aculeata* Fab.

Subs. BB. Sides of head converging in front. 2 sp. *P. coriacea*”.

4. Amyot and Serville, 1843 restricted *Phloeothrips* (sic) to two species, *coriacea* Haliday and *annulicornis* Haliday and placed the other species in two new genera *Haplothrips* A. & S. and *Hoplothrips* A. & S. But according to Article 69 (a) (V) of the Code, a nominal species is not rendered ineligible for designation as a type-species by reason of being the type-species of another genus. This rules out type-species designation by restriction.

5. Blanchard, 1845, validly designated *Thrips ulmi* Fabricius, 1781, as the type-species of *Phloeothrips* (sic) but unfortunately misidentified Fabricius' species since in his description of this species he refers to the presence of teeth on the fore-femora, a character not found in the true *Thrips ulmi* Fabricius. This type designation remained unnoticed for over a hundred years, although it is the first valid type designation for *Phlaeothrips* Haliday. Unfortunately *P. ulmi* Blanchard nec (Fabricius) cannot be identified from the brief description available, but under Article 70 (a) (ii) it is possible for the Commission, if so requested, to designate under the plenary powers, a species which will maintain uniformity and stability of nomenclature.

6. Uzel, 1895, upon whose work the modern study of Thysanoptera is based, introduced the family-group name *Phloeothripidae* (sic), and used the genus in the sense of Amyot and Serville, 1843, to include *P. coriacea* Haliday. No type-species was indicated.

7. Hood, 1912, designated *coriacea* Haliday as the type-species of *Phloeothrips* (sic). This action, being in accord with the usage established by Amyot and Serville, and followed by Uzel, was accepted for many years by subsequent authors. But Hood's designation was antedated by that of Blanchard, 1845.

8. Amyot and Serville, 1843, placed four species in the new genus *Hoplothrips* A. & S. including *Trips* (sic) *corticis* DeGeer, 1773. Karny, 1912, designated *corticis* DeGeer as the type-species of *Hoplothrips* A. & S. Unfortunately *corticis* A. & S. nec DeGeer was described as having bidentate fore-femora, and *corticis* Karny nec DeGeer was considered by Karny to be identical with *nodicornis* Reuter, 1880, the type-species of *Acanthothrips* Uzel, 1895, which has unidentate fore-femora. The true *corticis* DeGeer has unarmed fore-femora. However the nominal designation by Karny of *corticis* DeGeer as the type-species of *Hoplothrips* A. & S. has been accepted for many years by subsequent authors.

9. Morison, 1949, designated *P. pedicularius* Haliday, 1836, as the type-species of *Phloeothrips* (sic) on the invalid grounds that this was the first species listed by Haliday. He placed *Hoplothrips* A. & S. as a synonym of *Phloeothrips* (sic) Haliday, and proposed the name *Euphloeothrips* for *Phloeothrips* A. & S., 1843 (type-species *P. coriacea* Haliday) nec *Phlaeothrips* Haliday, 1836 (type-species *P. pedicularius* Haliday). Morison's designation was antedated by that of Blanchard, 1845.

10. Stannard, 1957, introduced to current literature Blanchard's 1845 designation of *ulmi* Fabricius as the type-species of *Phlaeothrips* Haliday. *P. coriacea* and its congeners were placed in *Acanthothrips* Uzel, and the large genus *Hoplothrips* was placed as a synonym of *Phlaeothrips* Haliday.

11. Priesner, 1961 and 1964, rejected both Morison's and Stannard's re-interpretation of *Phlaeothrips* Haliday and *Hoplothrips* A. & S. on the grounds of customary usage and stability of nomenclature, and in his keys to the species of European Thysanoptera he maintains the traditional usage of these generic names.

12. There is no doubt that the first valid type-species designation for *Phlaeothrips* Haliday, 1836, was that of Blanchard, 1845, that is, *Thrips ulmi* Fabricius, 1781. As he misidentified Fabricius' species, the case must be submitted under Article 70 (a) (ii) to the International Commission, who, under the plenary powers may designate as type-species whichever species will in its judgment best serve stability and uniformity.

13. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore requested :

(a) to suppress, under the plenary powers, all previous type-species designations of *Phlaeothrips* Haliday, 1836, and having done so to designate *Phlaeothrips coriacea* (sic) Haliday, 1836 as type-species;

(b) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic names :

(i) *Phlaeothrips* Haliday, 1836 (gender : masculine), type-species designated under the plenary powers in (a) above;

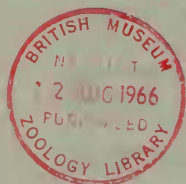
(ii) *Hoplothrips* Amyot and Serville, 1843 (gender : masculine), type-species *Trips corticis* DeGeer, 1773, as designated by Karny, 1912;

(c) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific names :

- (i) *coriaceus* emendation of *coriacea* Haliday, 1836, as published in the binomen *Phlaeothrips coriacea* (type-species of *Phlaeothrips* Haliday, 1836);
- (ii) *corticis* DeGeer, 1773 as published in the binomen *Trips corticis* (type-species of *Hoplothrips* Amyot and Serville, 1843);
- (d) to place on the Official List of Family Group Names in Zoology the name PHLAEOTHRIPIDAE Uzel, 1895 (emended from PHLOETHRIPIDAE), type-genus *Phlaeothrips* Haliday, 1836.

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THE BULLETIN OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

The Official Organ of
**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

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Volume 23, Part 4 (pp. 129-192)

14th October, 1966



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NOTICES

(a) *Date of Commencement of Voting.*—In normal circumstances the Commission starts to vote on applications published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* six months after the publication of each application. Any zoologist who wishes to comment on any of the applications in the present part is invited to send his contribution, in duplicate, to the Secretariat of the Commission as quickly as possible, and in any case in time to reach the Secretariat before the close of the six-month period.

(b) *Possible use of the Plenary Powers.*—The possible use by the Commission of its plenary powers is involved in the following applications published in the present part of the *Bulletin*:

- (1) Suppression of *Voluta mitra episcopalis* Linnaeus, 1758 (Gastropoda). Z.N.(S.) 1728.
- (2) Suppression of *Clupea flosmaris* Richardson, 1846 (Pisces) Z.N.(S.) 1740.
- (3) Suppression of *Sphyraena acus* Lacépède, 1803 and *Belona argalus* Lesueur, 1821 (Pisces). Z.N.(S.) 1723.
- (4) Designation of a type-species for *Cosmopterix* Hübner, 1825 (Insecta, Lepidoptera). Z.N.(S.) 1742.
- (5) Suppression of *Macrochoeta* Macquart, 1851 (Insecta, Diptera). Z.N.(S.) 1745.
- (6) Suppression of *Amphisbaena mildei* Peters, 1878 (Reptilia). Z.N.(S.) 1746.
- (7) Suppression of *Scoptes* Hübner, [1819] (Insecta, Lepidoptera). Z.N.(S.) 1748.
- (8) Suppression of *Cornufer* Tschudi, 1838, and *Cornufer unicolor* Tschudi, 1838 (Amphibia). Z.N.(S.) 1747.
- (9) Suppression of *Rana maculata* Daudin, 1801 (Amphibia). Z.N.(S.) 1750.
- (10) Emendation of STENOPODINAE Stål, 1859 to STENOPODAINAE (Insecta, Hemiptera). Z.N.(S.) 1747.
- (11) Suppression of *Proteocordylus* Eichwald, 1831, and *Palaeotriton* Fitzinger, 1837 (Amphibia). Z.N.(S.) 1751.
- (12) Suppression of *Phelsuma ornatum* Gray, 1825 (Sauria). Z.N.(S.) 1752.
- (13) Suppression of *Hippocampus erectus* Perry, (1810) (Pisces). Z.N.(S.) 1753.
- (14) Validation of *Tectarius Valenciennes*, 1832 (Gastropoda). Z.N.(S.) 1754.
- (15) Suppression of *Hippella* Moersch, 1861 (Pelecypoda). Z.N.(S.) 1755.
- (16) Suppression of *Truncatulina dumblei* Applin, 1925 (Foraminifera). Z.N.(S.) 1756.
- (17) Designation of a type-species for *Neolycaena* de Nicéville, 1890 (Insecta, Lepidoptera). Z.N.(S.) 1758.
- (18) Suppression of *Cellia errabunda* Swellengrebel, 1925 (Insecta, Diptera). Z.N.(S.) 1760.
- (19) Designation of a type-species for *Enithares* Spinola, 1837 (Insecta, Hemiptera). Z.N.(S.) 1762.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS RELATING TO *MIRIS* AND MIRIDAE
(INSECTA, HEMIPTERA). Z.N.(S.) 1090
(see volume 21, pages 263-267; 22, pages 122-133)

By T. Jaczewski (*Zoological Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw*)

In connection with the recently published text of the modified proposal of I. M. Kerzhner concerning the addition to the Official List of the family-group name MIRIDAE and other names involved in the case I wish to make the following supplementary comment:

1. The new proposal of Kerzhner (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 22 : 128-133) differs in a marked way from the former proposal advanced in the original application by Kerzhner & Tryapitsin (*ibid.* 21 : 263-267).

2. Alternative C of the modified proposal, which Kerzhner seems to consider the most appropriate, means in fact a return to the practice which prevailed in hemipterological nomenclature in the period from 1888-1943 and was based to a large extent on the wrong assumption that Fabricius himself "designated" *Cimex dolobratu*s Linnaeus, 1758, as type-species of *Miris* Fabricius, 1794. At the same time alternative C of the new proposal is a return to the type-species selection for *Miris* Fabricius made by Curtis in 1838, and repeated by Westwood in 1840.

3. I am unable to agree, however, that it would be a "return to Hahn's conception of the genus" (Kerzhner, *op. cit.*: 129). Hahn has never fixed a type-species for *Miris* Fabricius, and as to *Cimex dolobratu*s, he placed it at first in the genus *Miris* Fabricius (*Wanz. Ins.* 2, 1834: 75-76, pl. 53, fig. 160), but Herrich-Schäffer transferred it later to the genus *Lopus* Hahn (*op. cit.* 3, 1835: 45-46, pl. 86, figs. 261-262).

4. I see also in this case no reason to apply Art. 70 of the Code as neither Latreille in 1810, nor Curtis in 1838 nor Westwood in 1840 misidentified the species they selected as type-species for *Miris* Fabricius.

5. It is, of course, for specialists in the MIRIDAE to decide whether the formally valid, first type-selection for *Miris* Fabricius made by Latreille in 1810 should be maintained, or whether the Commission should set it aside under the plenary powers and fix, following Curtis, 1838, *Cimex dolobratu*s Linnaeus to be the type-species.

6. I quite agree with Kerzhner (in his modified proposal) that the second procedure would be more in accordance with the taxonomic concept of the genus *Miris* Fabricius initiated by Fallén in 1807 and accepted by most hemipterologists in the XIXth and the first half of the XXth centuries. Being no specialist in the MIRIDAE I do not feel competent to suggest whether it would be advisable to return to that concept now, after over 20 years of almost consistent use of the generic name *Miris* Fabricius in accordance with the type-species designation made by Latreille. It should be recalled, for instance, in this connection that in the recent monograph of the MIRIDAE of France (Wagner et Weber, *Faune de France*, 67, Paris, 1964) the generic name *Miris* Fabricius is used with the type-species *Cimex striatu*s Linnaeus (*op. cit.*: 183).

7. As to the family-group name MIRIDAE, in case the type-species of *Miris* Fabricius should be fixed under the plenary powers as *Cimex dolobratu*s, this family-group name should be also derived from the generic name conceived accordingly; in other words from the generic name *Miris* Fabricius as understood by Curtis, 1838, by Westwood, 1840, or by Reuter, 1888. The oldest family-group name based on *Miris* with type-species *dolobratu*s was MIRIDES Gorski, 1852, published with a direct and unambiguous reference to *Miris* Curtis.

8. Thus, if the modified proposal of Kerzhner is accepted by the Commission, then point (5) (a) of the proposal (*op. cit.*: 133) should be replaced by the following:

- (a) MIRIDAE (correction of MIRIDES) Gorski, 1852 (type-genus *Miris* Fabricius, 1794) with a ruling that in accordance with Art. 40b of the Code it takes the date 1833 and is to be considered a senior subjective synonym and homonym of MIRIDES Hahn, [1833].

9. Point (6) (a) of the modified proposal of Kerzhner should be replaced by the following:

(a) MIRIDES Gorski, 1852 (an incorrect spelling for MIRIDAE Gorski, 1852).

10. Points (1) (c), (2) (b), (3) (c) and (5) (a) of my comment on the original proposal of Kerzhner and Tryapitsin (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 22 : 127-128) should be incorporated at appropriate places in the new proposal of Kerzhner.

SUPPORT FOR SUPPRESSION OF *XYLEBORUS* BOWDICH, 1825.

Z.N.(S.) 1720.

(see volume 22, pages 269-270)

By D. E. Bright (*Ent. Res. Inst., Canada Dept. Agric., Ottawa, Ontario*)

I fully endorse Mr. R. T. Thompson's application for suppression of *Xyleborus* Bowdich, 1825, in favor of *Xyleborus* Eichhoff, 1864. His application plainly and concisely stated the reasons for this action and I can add nothing more except my support.

Xyleborus Bowdich, 1825, described from a "worm" boring in orange trees plainly represents an unrecognizable form; in fact, it cannot be properly placed in any family.

On the other hand, *Xyleborus* Eichhoff, 1864 is an extremely common genus of Scolytidae. It is worldwide in distribution and contains at least one thousand names. The genus includes many noxious pests of agriculture and research is currently being conducted on the economic effect of numerous species in many countries. A rapid examination of the literature from 1959 to 1963 showed the following numbers of references from various regions of the world: Southeast Asia, 13; Africa, 11; Europe, 9; Orient, 2 and Central America, 1.

Although there is disagreement among authorities concerning the limits of the genus, all of them use the name *Xyleborus* in the sense of Eichhoff. These problems will gradually be resolved by more extensive studies. To follow the Law of Priority in this case would cause considerable confusion and would serve no useful purpose. In the interest of stability, I add my support to Thompson's proposal.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF *ANOPHELES*

AFRICANUS THEOBALD, 1901. Z.N.(S.) 1722

(see volume 22, page 324)

By P. F. Mattingly (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

I should like to support the application by Dr. Gillies for suppression of the name *Anopheles africanus* Theobald, 1901. The species in question is of no importance as a malaria vector, but it is very common and has been many times recorded in the literature under the name *obscurus*.

By J. A. Reid (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

I agree with Dr. Gillies' reasons for this proposal. Namely that *africanus* is very probably a senior synonym of *obscurus* Grunberg, 1905, but that the latter is the name by which this species of mosquito has always been known, whilst *africanus* does not seem to have been used for 58 years after its first publication. Consequently, for the sake of stability it is very desirable that *africanus* should be suppressed, and I support Dr. Gillies' application.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSALS REGARDING CHRYSOPINAE IN NEUROPTERA AND DIPTERA. Z.N.(S.) 1725

(see volume 22, pages 332-333)

By D. E. Kimmins (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

I would like to support the above application by Dr. Bo Tjeder in connection with the homonymy of the subfamily names based upon *Chrysopa* Leach, 1815, and *Chrysops* Meigen, 1803.

I am in favour of the proposal set out in para. 5 rather than that in para. 4, since in addition to the arguments there expounded, I feel that the emended name CHRYSOPIINAE is a better-sounding and more easily pronounced name than CHRYSOPIINAE or CHRYSOPIIDAE.

By F. M. Carpenter (*Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.*)

I am writing to lend my full support to the proposal of Mr. Bo Tjeder that the International Commission use its plenary powers to validate CHRYSOPIIDAE and CHRYSOPIINAE in their accustomed sense in the order Neuroptera. I also endorse the several other proposals submitted by Mr. Tjeder in connection with the foregoing recommendation.

The identity of the subfamily names based upon the genus *Chrysopa* Leach, on the one hand, and *Chrysops* Meigen, on the other, will continue to cause confusion until action is taken by the International Commission. The history of this nomenclatural problem certainly indicates that, with *Chrysopa* the type-genus of the family CHRYSOPIIDAE, no confusion would follow the acceptance of the genus as the type-genus of the subfamily CHRYSOPIINAE. On the other hand, the adoption of the subfamily name CHRYSOPIINAE for the genus *Chrysopa* would be certain to cause difficulties for many years. The dipterous name CHRYSOPIINAE has not had nearly the extensive use that the corresponding name has had at both family and subfamily level in the Neuroptera.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO REJECT *MITRA PERLATA* [RÖDING],
1798 (GASTROPODA). Z.N.(S.) 1726
(see volume 22, page 334)

By Harald A. Rehder (*Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*)

Dr. R. Tucker Abbott has shown me the comments he has made regarding the application in question by Mr. Walter O. Cernohorsky, and I agree with his statements.

It seems indisputable that *Mitra perlata* Röding, 1798, is a *nomen nudum*, since Röding does not cite any figures. As Abbott points out, the "process of elimination"—a dubious method at best—cannot be used here because Röding, after bestowing the name *Mitra imperialis* on Gmelin's α variety of *Voluta pertusa*, gives two names: *Mitra perlata* and *M. capucina* to varieties of Gmelin's species, but in neither instance does he use "var. β ", so we do not know if either or any of them are meant for this variety.

The rules for *nomina nuda* should be strictly adhered to, and this is particularly important in the case of the *Museum Boltenianum*, which contains many new names used by Röding for varieties of Gmelin's names, without being characterized or defined in any way.

Thus it appears that this application needs no action by the Commission, other than to declare that this case falls outside of their sphere of operation.

By Jean M. Cate (*Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.*)

I wish to go on record as supporting this request, for the same reasons stated in the petition.

Furthermore, as a worker in this family-group, I have on file well over 2500 names used in Mitridae by numerous authors in this family subsequent to Röding, and although the file is not yet complete, it does cover the more significant post-Linnaean works in Mitridae, and the name *Mitra perlata* does not appear in the file.

There are, however, numerous references, with adequate figures, to *Mitra chrysozona* Broderip, 1836, and the species is well known by this name in important collections all over the world.

It would seem proper to suppress the name *Mitra perlata* Röding, 1798, on the basis of these findings and the arguments set forth by Mr. Cernohorsky in his petition.

CONSERVATION DE *THEREVA SUBCOLEOPTRATA* (F. 1798) COMME TYPE DE *PHASIA* LATREILLE 1804 (INSECTA DIPTERA).^{*} Z.N.(S.) 1706 (see volume 22, pages 243-245, volume 23, pages 9-11)

par Claude Dupuis (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 57 rue Cuvier, Paris 5e, France)

La proposition de Herting (1965) de remplacer *Thereva subcoleoptrata* (F. 1798) comme type de *Phasia* Latr. 1804 par *Ectophasia rubra* (Girschner 1888) Dupuis 1957¹, se fonde sur une critique de Latreille, sur une éventuelle erreur d'identification de *subcoleoptrata* par Fabricius et sur diverses considérations d'usage.

La documentation que j'ai réunie, au cours de vingt années d'études sur les *Phasiinae*, me permet d'apporter ci-après, relativement à ce cas, un faisceau cohérent d'arguments, pour la plupart méconnus de notre collègue. Après examen et discussion de ceux qui concernent Latreille, puis Fabricius, puis les conséquences possibles de la proposition en cause, je serai dans l'obligation de conclure, avec Sabrosky (1966), au rejet de celle-ci.

I—LES ACTIONS TAXONOMIQUES DE LATREILLE

Herting et Sabrosky, l.c., s'écartent de Dupuis (1949) dans le détail de l'interprétation juridique des actions de Latreille; le premier doute, en outre, de leur fondement zoologique. Ces deux aspects de la question ayant des conséquences nomenclatoriales différentes doivent être examinés indépendamment.

A—PORTÉE JURIDIQUE DES ACTIONS DE LATREILLE

Les actions à considérer sont l'introduction du nom *Phasia* et la désignation du type du genre correspondant.

1—Signification de l'introduction du nom *Phasia*

Phasia apparaît originellement dans Latreille (1804b: 195) sans espèce incluse nommément citée, mais avec une diagnose et deux synonymes: "les *Thérèves* de M. Fab.", "mes *mouches applaties*". Son introduction correspond donc (cf. Dupuis 1949) au remplacement de *Thereva* F. 1798 (préemployé dans *Thereva* Latr. 1796) par un *nomen novum*, et non pas à la création d'un taxon.

L'intention de Latreille à cet égard ne fait aucun doute, car:

- dès 1802, il traite à part de ses "*Thérèves*" (p. 440) et de ses "*Mouches applaties*" (p. 456), incluant dans celles-ci: "les *thérèves* de Fabricius—*Thereva coleoptrata* F. etc.—les *chrysogastres* de Meigen" (ces dernières ne seront jamais plus citées);
- en 1803, p. 122, il réaffirme la synonymie entre ses "*Mouches applaties*" et "les *Thérèves* de M. Fabricius" et en 1804a, p. 137, il déplore que la désignation de *Thérève* lui ait été "enlevée" par Fabricius;
- en 1809, p. 296, il regrette que le nom *Thereva* (qu'il avait substitué en 1796 à *Bibio* Fabr. non Geoffr.) ait été "usurpé" par Fabricius;
- en 1817, p. 505, il rappelle que *Phasia* existait préalablement en tant que taxon ("cette coupe générique") sous le nom de *Thereva* F. auquel il a simplement "substitué" celui de *Phasia*.

Cette position de Latreille sur l'homonymie de *Thereva* F. était parfaitement connue (Fallén 1820: 2) et même reconnue des contemporains (Wiedemann 1817a: 6, 1818: 45, 1830: 262; Meigen 1820: 115, 1824: 185).

En conséquence, *Phasia* renferme, dès l'origine—1804b—les Six *Thereva* de Fabricius 1798 (cf. Dupuis 1949).

Ceci correspond, là encore, à la position de Latreille qui parle constamment (1802, 1803, 1804a, 1804b, 1805) des *Thérèves* de Fabricius, au pluriel, qui, dès 1802, mentionne "*Th. coleoptrata* F., etc. . .", qui cite, en 1805, celle-ci mais également "*la Thérève hémiptère* de Fabricius" et, en 1809, quatre espèces.

^{*} Contributions à l'étude des *Phasiinae* cimicophages. 32.

¹ Herting donne "*Phasia rubra* Girschner 1886". Le statut exact de ce Diptère est *Ectophasia rubra* (Girschner 1888: 231 sub. var.) Dupuis: 1957: 1580, 1963: 112.

2—Procédure de désignation du type

Latreille 1804b n'ayant incluí nommément aucune espèce dans *Phasia*, la désignation du type résulte nécessairement d'une publication ultérieure.

Selon Sabrosky (1966), cette publication est celle de Latreille 1805 où *Thereva subcoleoprata* F. (par lapsus "coleoprata"), seule espèce citée (... sous forme latine, car *Th. hemiptera* est mentionnée conditionnellement sous forme vernaculaire), devient le type de *Phasia* par monotypie subséquente.

J'ai personnellement soutenu (1949) que le nom. nov. *Phasia* renfermant, dès l'origine, toutes les *Thereva* de Fabricius 1798, la désignation de son type devrait résulter d'un choix formel parmi celles-ci, non exprimé en 1805.

Ce choix intentionnel (cf. Opinion XI de la CINZ) d'un type ayant été fait par Latreille 1810 en faveur de *Th. subcoleoprata* (p. 444 sans lapsus!), mon interprétation conduit évidemment au même résultat que celle de Sabrosky²). J'ai toutefois tenu à rappeler les deux, car, si la Commission confirmait le type de *Phasia*, elle devrait préciser quand et comment il a été désigné.

B—VALIDITÉ ZOOLOGIQUE DES ACTIONS DE LATREILLE

Comme beaucoup d'auteurs de son temps—à l'exception notable de Fabricius (v. infra)—Latreille connaissait sans doute assez peu les espèces de ses *Phasia*. Génériste bien plus que spéciographe, il ne donne, en 1802, 1803, 1804b, 1809, 1810, aucune description spécifique de ces Diptères; il précise d'ailleurs, en 1802 p. 122, à propos du genre "Mouche", qu'ayant "embrassé la totalité des Insectes, il [lui] a été impossible jusqu'à ce jour de fixer spécialement [ses] regards sur ce genre."

Ceci ne diminue en rien la portée de ses deux actions taxonomiques, car, d'une part, celles-ci se fondent uniquement sur des textes, et d'autre part, Latreille n'a jamais commis la confusion entre *Ph. subcoleoprata* et les *Ectophasia* que suppose Herting.

Ces deux propositions se démontrent aisément.

1—Latreille et le recours aux textes

En dehors de la création du nom. nov., de la désignation du type et de trois données originales³) sans incidence sur celles-ci, tout l'apport de Latreille sur les *Phasia* d'Europe est emprunté à Fabricius. En effet:

- 1—les *Thereva* de Fabricius servent de références, dès 1802, et en 1803, aux "mouches aplaties", puis, en 1804b et 1805, aux *Phasia* lorsque ce nom remplace *Thereva* et "mouches aplaties";
- 2—la première des *Thereva* de Fabricius, i.e. *subcoleoprata*, est toujours citée comme exemple (1802, 1804b, 1805) ou comme type (1810);
- 3—les diagnoses et descriptions latines de Fabricius 1794 fournissent les éléments qui, traduits mot à mot en français, constituent la description de 1805 et celles de 1817;
- 4—les références iconographiques de Fabricius 1805 sont reproduites en 1809 et 1817 sans discussion (alors que la pl. 71 fig. 6 de Schaeffer 1767 représente *Ectophasia rubra* et non pas *Allophora hemiptera*⁴) et que la *subcoleoprata* des pl. 13 et 14 de Panzer 1800 correspond à *hemiptera*;
- 5—les localités mentionnées par Fabricius ou les illustrateurs qu'il cite sont toutes reprises en 1817, sans addition autre que *subcoleoprata* aux environs de Paris (v. infra);

² L'interprétation de Sabrosky paraît inspirée de CNZ 69 a II 1. Je dois à ce propos observer: 1°) que la raison d'être de cette disposition du CNZ n'est nullement évidente, 2°) que le CNZ ne précise pas si la disposition s'applique aux genres nominaux représentés par un nom. nov. et ce que vaut la référence à un genre nominal préexistant, 3°) que les textes français et anglais ne correspondent pas; il faudrait lire en français: "la simple référence à une publication contenant les noms des espèces ne constitue pas par elle-même l'inclusion des espèces dans un genre nominal".

³ Il s'agit, en 1809, de la synonymie de *Musca nebulosa* Panzer 1798 avec *Th. obesa* F. et de la mention d'une figure de Coquebert comme variété de *crassipennis* (v. infra), puis, en 1817, de l'indication de *subcoleoprata* aux environs de Paris (v. infra).

⁴ Sur l'importance des déterminations de cette figure par Fabricius, v. infra.

6—le souci de préserver la pureté de l'acception fabricéenne de *Th. subcoleoprata* s'exprime sans ambiguïté par des réserves sur la "*Th. subcoleoprata*" de la planche de Schellenberg⁵ et sur le "*Conops subcoleopratus*" de Linné⁶.

En ces conditions, il est évident que la création du nom. nov. *Phasia* et la désignation de son type reposent uniquement et sciemment sur des textes⁷—ceux de Fabricius—ce qui constitue, dans l'une comme dans l'autre de ces actions nomenclatoriales, une procédure légitime et habituelle.

2—*Latreille et la détermination de Phasia subcoleoprata*

Herting suggère que Latreille aurait confondu *Ph. subcoleoprata* avec une *Ectophasia* (sans d'ailleurs préciser laquelle). Il fonde son opinion sur un nom "vernaculaire" de Latreille et sur son explication de l'étymologie de *Phasia*. Ces arguments philologiques ne résistent pas à l'examen et, de plus, l'oeuvre de Latreille renferme des preuves zoologiques qu'il n'a jamais commis une telle confusion.

(a) Le nom "*Phasia ailes-épaisses*"

Lorsque *Phasia crassipennis* n'est pas citée, le nom "vernaculaire" "*Phasia ailes-épaisses*" appliqué par Latreille (1805: 379) à *Ph. subcoleoprata* est certes une traduction non littérale de ce nom latin, mais cela ne signifie nullement que l'auteur ait en vue *crassipennis*. En effet:

—"*Phasia ailes-épaisses*" s'accompagne du nom latin *Ph. subcoleoprata* et d'une description dont les éléments sont tirés des diagnose et description de *Syrphus subcoleopratus* F. 1794 et non de celles de *S. crassipennis*;

—"*ailes-épaisses*" s'explique sans difficulté par "*alis crassioribus*" dans *subcoleoprata* de Fabricius 1794, voire par "*alis praemorsis externe crassioribus*" dans *subcoleoprata* de Linné 1767;

—les deux publications nomenclatoirement significatives (1804b, 1810) ne citent pas de nom vernaculaire;

—un nom vulgaire ne fait jamais foi, a fortiori un néologisme qui ne représente que le travestissement pseudo-vernaculaire d'un nom savant.

Lorsque *Phasia crassipennis* est citée, Latreille et ses continuateurs, manifestement conscients d'une confusion possible, modifient la terminologie vernaculaire. L'on trouve alors:

—dans Latreille 1817, "*Phasia coléoptériforme*" pour *subcoleoprata* (avec une description comparable à celle de 1805), puis "*Phasia hémiptère*" et "*Phasia ailes-épaisses*" pour *hemiptera* et *crassipennis* respectivement;

—dans Le Peletier & Serville 1825, "*Phasia ailes-épaisses*" pour leur *subcoleoprata*, mais "*Phasia crassipenne*" pour *crassipennis*;

—dans Duméril 1829, "*Thérève sous-engainante*" pour *subcoleoprata*, puis "*Thérève hémiptère*" et "*Thérève crassipenne*" pour *hemiptera* et *crassipennis* respectivement.

La traduction malheureuse de Latreille 1805 constitue une négligence banale qui n'affecte en rien l'acception strictement fabricéenne de *subcoleoprata* par cet auteur; les remèdes qu'y apportèrent ultérieurement Latreille lui-même et d'autres, montrent, au demeurant, que les entomologistes français ne s'y sont pas laissés prendre.

⁵ 1805 p. 379-380: "L'espèce représentée dans Schellenberg [1803] (tabl. 2, fig. II) [lire Tab. II, fig. 2B] pour la présente [*subcoleoprata*, mais *sub. nom.* "*subcoleoptera*"] est plutôt la *Thérève hémiptère* de Fabricius" (ce qui confirme le texte non cité de Schellenberg p. 48-49).

⁶ 1809 p. 345: "*Conops subcoleopratus* Linnaei congener, sed a *T. subcoleoprata* Fabricii diversus videtur, ut indicant haec Linnaei verba: "*abdomen ferrugineum apice nigro*" (ce caractère linnéen, non cité par Fabricius, a également retenu l'attention de Girschner 1887: 419; malgré cela, l'identité des deux mouches est certaine car *Ph. subcoleoprata* est le seul gros *Allophorina* existant en Suède centrale, *terra typica* de *subcoleoprata* L.; *All. hemiptera* ne dépasse pas la Scanie, cf. Ringdahl 1945).

⁷ Pour cette raison, il me paraît vain de rechercher si Latreille a connu ou non des échantillons de *subcoleoprata*. J'accorde à Sabrosky que Latreille aurait pu voir cette espèce dans la collection Bosc. J'accorde à Herting que *Ph. subcoleoprata* (de même que *Ph. musciformis*, s'il y a une différence spécifique) est rarissime en Europe occidentale et moyenne; il existe cependant un record allemand plausible (Kröber 1910: 74) et des captures certaines en Pologne (Draber Monko 1965: 126) et en Belgique (Maréchal 1931: 106, dét. J. Villeneuve).

(b) *L'étymologie de Phasia*

Latreille n'a jamais donné l'étymologie de *Phasia*. Personnellement, j'ai trouvé dans la frappante beauté des mâles d'*Ectophasia* (i.e. *Phasia* Latr. p.p.) que j'ai longuement observés sur le terrain (1963: 152), une explication possible de ce nom, ce qui m'a fait écrire (*op. cit.* p. 3): "j'y vois une allusion à l'apparence spectaculaire des mâles de *Phasia* sensu R.D. (= *Ectophasia* Town.) . . .". La limite de ma propre expérience ne préjuge en rien de l'étendue de celle de Latreille, aussi me garderai-je bien d'admettre "that Latreille probably thought of the *crassipennis* complex" (Herting) à l'exclusion de toute autre *Phasia*.

Au surplus, Latreille eut pu très légitimement, pour le genre en sa *totalité* créer un nom d'après une caractéristique qu'il n'aurait observée que chez une *partie* de ses représentants. Cette pratique, parfaitement courante dans le baptême des unités taxonomiques⁸, n'a en droit aucune incidence ni sur la validité des noms, ni sur la désignation des types de genres.

(c) *Preuves zoologiques tirées de Latreille*

Latreille mentionne pour la première fois "*Ph. crassipennis*" en 1809, non seulement en indiquant sous ce nom la figure de Panzer 1800 (H. 74, pl. 15) déjà citée par Fabricius 1805, mais encore en précisant que "figura domini Coquebert (*Illust. Icon. Insect.*, dec. 3, tab. 23, fig. 11) varietatem exhibet". Coquebert (1804) représentant en réalité comme *crassipennis* une *Ectophasia rubra*, ceci prouve que Latreille savait reconnaître nos actuelles *Ectophasia* et n'ignorait pas totalement *E. rubra*.

Une confusion de sa part entre une *Ectophasia* et *Phasia subcoleoprata* est donc par suite fort improbable; elle est, en fait, totalement exclue, car la véritable confusion de Latreille—tardive d'ailleurs—est celle de *Phasia subcoleoprata* avec *Allophora hemiptera*.

Cette confusion peut être soupçonnée à la lecture de Latreille 1817 qui, en regard de description convenables (d'après les textes), donne la mention "originale" de *subcoleoprata* aux environs de Paris, sans citer *hemiptera* de France. Elle est confirmée par Le Peletier & Serville 1825 qui décrivent une *All. hemiptera* indubitable ("corselet noir, ses côtés et sa partie antérieure couverts de poils roux et dorés") sous le nom de *Ph. subcoleoprata*. Ces auteurs, en effet, se prévalent de l'accord de Latreille et se réfèrent aux fig. 14 et 15, pl. 394 des Planches d'*Insectes* de l'Encyclopédie—publiées vers 1818 sous la responsabilité de Latreille—qui sont la copie des pl. 13 et 14, H. 74 de Panzer 1800. Tout ceci permet de penser que Latreille, vers 1817, avait adopté l'erreur de Panzer⁹ (*hemiptera* sous le nom de *subcoleoprata*) et explique ses indications de localités.

En d'autres termes, la seule interprétation de *subcoleoprata* propre à Latreille dont on possède un indice est tardive et partielle (ce qui laisse intacte toute l'œuvre plus ancienne) et ne correspond absolument pas à une *Ectophasia*, ce dont il convenait de s'assurer.

⁸ Par exemple, *Phania* Meigen 1824: 219 est, en tant que nom "von phanos, durchscheinend hergeleitet" ("transparent" selon Meigen, plutôt que "brillant" selon Lucas 1847: 721); en tant que genre, Meigen l'utilise pour des mouches à abdomen transparent (*obscuripennis*, *vittata*) ou totalement noir (*thoracica*, *curvicauda*).

⁹ Mon explication (inédite) de l'erreur de Panzer est la suivante: cet auteur figure *Ect. crassipennis* (1800, H. 74, pl. 15), *Ect. rubra* et *Allophora hemiptera*, mais non *Phasia subcoleoprata* qu'il ne connaît pas; étant donné que, sur la foi de Fabricius (1794: 284), il identifie à *hemiptera* (1798 H. 59, pl. 15; 1804 pl. 71, fig. 6 et p. 88) la figure innommée de *rubra* par Schaeffer et sa propre figure de *rubra*, il emploie fatalement, par élimination, le nom *subcoleoprata* (1800, H. 74, pl. 13-14) pour l'*hemiptera* vraie.

Ni Fabricius, qui ne mentionne Panzer que tardivement (1805), ni Latreille (1809, 1817), ni Fallén (1816, 1820) qui ne le cite que d'après Fabricius ne se sont aperçus de cette erreur relevée pour la première fois par Zetterstedt (1844: 1246). Le Peletier & Serville l'ont peut-être, pressentie, mais ils ont préféré, reprenant la citation peut probante de Linné par Latreille (1809), admettre que Panzer et Fabricius avaient tous deux commis la même erreur par rapport à Linné.

II—VALIDITÉ DE L'IDENTIFICATION DE FABRICIUS

Herting admet que le matériel de Fabricius pour *Th. subcoleoprata* appartient en réalité à l'espèce *Ectophasia rubra* (Girschner) Dupuis. La remarque de Meigen sur laquelle il fonde cette opinion ne doit évidemment pas éclipser l'oeuvre de Fabricius: il faut donc examiner l'une et l'autre.

A—VALEUR DE LA REMARQUE DE MEIGEN

Meigen (1824: 186), à propos de *Ph. crassipennis*, s'exprime textuellement comme suit: "Eine kleinere Abänderung hat einen braungelben Hinterleib ohne schwarze Strieme, und ganz braune Beine; alles Uebrige zeigt keine Verschiedenheit. Diesz ist *Ther. subcoleoprata* in Fabricius Museum, nur dasz die Beine roth sind."¹⁰

Cette remarque mérite certes un examen zoologique, mais encore convient-il de se soucier de sa portée juridique.

1—Valeur zoologique

Vu le "braungelben Hinterleib ohne schwarze Strieme" de la variété de Meigen, on peut penser, avec Herting, que le matériel de Kiel qui lui est comparé se rapporte à *Ectophasia rubra* (Girschner) Dupuis.

Il faut toutefois exprimer deux réserves:

- (a) Le matériel litigieux, dont Meigen ne donne aucune description propre, diffère par ses "Beine roth" de la variété à "ganz braune Beine", elle-même décrite très sommairement; la coloration des pattes, quoique fort variable, présente chez les *Ectophasia* certaines tendances spécifiques encore à préciser, de sorte qu'il est difficile d'affirmer que la différence constatée soit simplement individuelle.
- (b) Vu l'absence de renseignements sur l'aile et l'imprécision même de la formule "kleinere Abänderung", on ignore quel type de mâle peut représenter la variété de référence; on peut toutefois admettre que la mention, par Meigen, de divers mâles minorés de *rubra* comme autant d'espèces (*brachyptera* Pz., *taeniata* Pz., *ancora* Meg., *diluta* n. sp.) implique par élimination que les mâles cités sous *crassipennis* sont typiques.

Ces réserves serviraient à la Commission pour apprécier, si nécessaire, la probabilité de la détermination proposée, mais l'absence de portée juridique de la remarque de Meigen interdit de s'attarder sur ce point.

2—Valeur juridique

Toute la question est de savoir si le matériel auquel Meigen fait allusion¹¹ a la valeur d'un type de Fabricius. A ceci s'opposent les faits suivants:

- (a) le "relevant material" pour *subcoleoprata* F. 1794, 1798 ne faisait pas partie de la collection de Fabricius, lequel l'avait vu à Paris, dans la collection Bosc (cf. Sabrosky 1966);
- (b) Fallén, 1816, 1820, qui a redécrit *subcoleoprata* d'après du matériel suédois et l'a fait connaître à Meigen (cf. 1824: 191), admettait la *subcoleoprata* de Fabricius (1794, 1798 et 1805) comme égale à la sienne;
- (c) Meigen n'a pas considéré le matériel litigieux de Kiel comme un type, car malgré sa remarque de la p. 186, il admet parfaitement p. 190 les acceptions

¹⁰ On notera "kleinere Abänderung" (et non pas seulement "kleine...") qui signifie variété plus petite, et "Diesz" (non "dies"), forme archaïque d'un pronom neutre (sans rapport avec le féminin Abänderung), partie intégrante de la formule indéfinie "Diesz ist".

¹¹ Meigen n'a précisé ni le nombre, ni l'origine de ce matériel. Sa présence—en 1823—et son absence de nos jours (cf. Herting 1965) dans la collection de Fabricius n'ont rien d'explicable. On sait, par Wiedemann (1817b: 62-63), premier conservateur de cette collection, que "es mag manchem Samler so gehen, wie es Fabricius selbst gegangen ist, dasz er zu seiner einmal genauer untersuchten und bestimmten Art in der Folge ähnliche in die Sammlung hineinsteckt, welche sich bei genauer Betrachtung doch noch hinlänglich verschieden finden, um entweder einer andern schon bestimmten Art beigesellet, oder auch als noch übersehene neue Art aufgeführt zu werden".

Meigen, qui connaissait ces faits, s'est bien gardé de considérer comme type un matériel en contradiction avec les textes; la disparition ultérieure de celui-ci peut s'expliquer par une "épuración" précisément consécutive à sa remarque.

de *subcoleoprata* L. par Fabricius 1794, 1798, 1805 (cf. Sabrosky l.c.), Latreille 1809, 1810 et Fallén 1820.

B—VALEUR DES TEXTES DE FABRICIUS

L'oeuvre de Fabricius quant aux *Phasia* (*Syrphus p.p.* 1794, *Thereva* 1798) est tout à fait remarquable par l'emploi d'éléments de diagnose caractéristiques et par l'indication des localités et collections de référence.

(1) La création de *Syrphus hemipterus* pour l'espèce anglaise (caractère suffisant!) de Lewin à "thorax antice et sub alae pilis fulvis nitidis" (caractère suffisant!) est une correction délibérée et définitive de l'identification antérieure, explicitement dubitative (1775, 1781, 1787), de ce même matériel à *subcoleoprata* L.

(2) La création simultanée d'un *S. crassipennis* de France, à "alae coriaceae, cinereae limbo punctoque medio fuscis" vaut assurément pour une *Ectophasia*, car ce genre, absent d'Angleterre et de Scandinavie, possède seul des mâles à taches noires ponctiformes sur l'aile.

(3) La redéfinition de *S. subcoleopratus*, par son habitat en Suède et son "thorax totus niger substriatus", est tout aussi heureuse, les *Ectophasia* à thorax pollineux n'atteignant pas la Scandinavie et *hemiptera* à pilosité thoracique rousse n'y existant, au plus, qu'en Scanie et en Finlande (cf. Ringdahl 1945).

(4) La détermination erronée, en 1794, de la figure innominée de Schaeffer (1767, pl. 71, fig. 6) comme *S. hemipterus*¹², alors qu'il s'agit d'une *Ectophasia rubra* à thorax doré, ailes à points noirs nets et abdomen rouge, nous prouve que Fabricius ne connaissait pas *Ect. rubra*.

Elle nous prouve, en outre, étant contemporaine de la création de *crassipennis* et de la restauration de l'acception linéenne de *subcoleoprata*,

(1°) que la *crassipennis* de Fabricius est une *Ectophasia* différente de *rubra* (c'est donc *rostrata* Egger = *strigata* Girschner¹³);

(2°) que la *subcoleoprata* de Fabricius 1794 est également différente de *rubra*, ce qu'il fallait démontrer.

III—CONSÉQUENCES DES ACTIONS POSSIBLES

L'avantage éventuel de la conservation de "*Phasiinae*" ne devant pas introduire le désordre aux échelons spécifique, générique et tribal j'examine ci-dessous, aux niveaux taxonomiques successifs, les conséquences formelles, zoologiques et d'usage du *statu quo* et de la proposition Herting.

A—À L'ÉCHELON SPÉCIFIQUE

1—Conséquences formelles

Le *statu quo* repose sur des binômes classiques et fort anciens.

La proposition en litige présente, au contraire, l'inconvénient de faire appel à un trinôme, "*Phasia crassipennis rubra*", qui n'existe que dans Herting. Girschner n'a en effet introduit (18881, non 1886, p. 231) ni une espèce, ni une sous-espèce, mais seulement une "var. *rubra*" qu'il considère, au surplus, comme la "Normalform" [*sic*] du "Formenkreis" qu'il a imaginé pour *crassipennis*.

En outre, l'emploi des noms récents *rostrata* Egger et *rubra* Girschner pour les deux *Ectophasia* les plus répandues en Europe répond à un souci de clarté mais enfreint la priorité, ce que j'ai souligné expressément (1963: 110, n. 1). Désigner *rubra* comme type de *Phasia* équivaudrait donc à choisir sciemment une forme mal comprise par son auteur même et synonyme de noms plus anciens qui restent à déterminer.

¹² Cette erreur, déjà commise en 1787 (l'icône de Schaeffer est donnée sous *S. subcoleopratus* sensu F. 1775, i.e. *hemiptera* F.) peut s'expliquer par l'abdomen parfois totalement roux de certains mâles d'*hemiptera*. Elle est à l'origine des confusions de Panzer (v. supra) qui, en 1798 (H. 59, p. 15) a représenté *rubra* sous le nom d'*hemiptera*, en renvoyant à Schaeffer 1767 et Fabricius 1794 et qui, en 1804, a réédité la figure de Schaeffer avec cette même détermination. Girschner semble le premier à avoir noté que Panzer figurait une *Ectophasia* (1887: 385) et, plus précisément, *E. rubra* (cf. 1888: 232).

¹³ Ceci confirme, d'après les textes, l'acception de *crassipennis* que Herting (*op. cit.*) établit d'après des "types" de Copenhague (douteux dans la mesure où Fabricius 1794 indique pour origine de son matériel; "Mus. Dom Bosc").

2—Conséquences zoologiques

Le *statu quo* n'implique aucune conséquence zoologique particulière à l'échelon spécifique.

L'adoption de *rubra* comme type de *Phasia* risque d'entraîner une confusion entre *Phasia subcoleoprata* (L.) (mouche de Suède à thorax noir) et *Ectophasia rubra* (mouche à thorax pollineux absente de Scandinavie).

3—Conséquences quant à l'usage

En dehors de Herting, aucun auteur et, en particulier, aucun praticien n'ayant encore adopté ma distinction de *rubra* et de *crassipennis* (cf. Dupuis 1957, 1963), le choix de *rubra* comme type de *Phasia* ne reposerait sur aucune tradition d'usage courant. Une telle tradition serait plutôt en faveur de "*Phasia crassipennis*" (cf. Apstein 1915).

B—À L'ÉCHELON GÉNÉRIQUE

1—Conséquences formelles

Le *statu quo* est, en tous points, conforme aux règles de nomenclature et, notamment, *Phasia* Latr. 1804 et *Thereva* F. 1798, l'un s'étant substitué à l'autre, ont le même type (cf. CNZ 67i): *Th. subcoleoprata* (F.), espèce originellement incluse dans l'un et l'autre (cf. CNZ 67h).

L'adoption, comme type de *Phasia*, de *rubra* qui ne figure à l'origine ni dans *Thereva*, ni dans *Phasia*, conduirait à enfreindre deux fois CNZ 67h. Une mesure limitée à *Phasia* seule serait contraire à CNZ 67i et laisserait *Thereva* F. 1798, avec son type *subcoleoprata*, comme homonyme de *Thereva* Latr. 1796, sans autre nom de remplacement que des synonymes plus ou moins subjectifs.

2—Conséquences zoologiques

Il est assez délicat, compte tenu des viscosités nomenclatoriales passées, de définir le statut générique actuel de nombreuses *Phasia*, *Allophora*, *Phorantha*, etc. . . anciennes du monde entier.

La restauration du *statu quo*, à laquelle j'ai procédé en 1949, est un moindre mal.

Au contraire, la suppression de l'acceptation originelle de *Phasia* Latr. (qu'il faudra remplacer par *Phorantha*, synonyme subjectif) et l'introduction d'un *Phasia* s. nov. (qui ne supprimera pas *Ectophasia*, vu leurs types spécifiquement différents) ne peuvent que conduire à une complication supplémentaire.

3—Conséquences quant à l'usage

La restauration du *statu quo* est conforme à l'usage délibéré, constamment affirmé, de prendre pour type de *Phasia* Latr., soit *Th. subcoleoprata* F. (Latreille 1810), soit *Conops subcoleopratus* L. (Westwood 1840: 140), soit, lorsqu'il y a eu confusion, *Allophora hemiptera* (F.) (Curtis 1838 pl. 697, Coquillet 1910: 587, Townsend 1912: 45, 1938: 65, Malloch 1929: 108), mais jamais une *Ectophasia*!

Elle n'est pas aussi méconnue de nos jours que l'affirme Herting. En dehors de mes publications depuis 1949 et des travaux américains que cite Sabrosky (1966), on trouve des usages corrects ou des mentions des genres *Phasia* s. Latr. ou *Ectophasia* dans Malloch 1929, Villeneuve 1933, Shumakov 1958, Viktorov 1960, 1962a, b, 1964, 1965, Viktorov & Kozharina 1961, Coe 1962, Verbeke 1962 et peut-être d'autres encore.

La proposition Herting tend simplement à officialiser l'usage routinier de *Phasia* sensu Robineau-Desvoidy 1830, largement répandu, à une époque où l'on n'observait guère de règles nomenclatoriales, par Macquart, Meigen (1838: 283), Schiner, etc. . . et surtout par le Catalogue de Bezzi (1907) dont les insuffisances sont bien connues (cf. Herting 1960: 6).

C—AUX ÉCHELONS SUPERGÉNÉRIQUES

1—Conséquences nomenclatoriales

L'acceptation du *statu quo*, i.e. de *subcoleoprata*, comme type de *Phasia* Latr. entraîne, évidemment, l'emploi d'*Ectophasiini* et *Ectophasiinae* et le rejet de *Phasiini* et *Phasiinae*, car *Phasiinae* Robineau-Desvoidy 1830 est fondé sur *Phasia* R.D. = *Ectophasia* Town. et non pas sur *Phasia* Latr.

La proposition de Herting tend avant tout à la conservation de *Phasiinae*. En admettant qu'aucun autre nom n'ait la priorité¹⁴, on peut se demander s'il est vraiment nécessaire de changer pour cela le type de *Phasia* et s'il n'eût pas mieux valu invoquer CNZ 39a II¹⁵.

2—Conséquences zoologiques

Phasia Latr. et *Ectophasia* Town. appartiennent (contra Sabrosky!) au moins à des sous-tribus différentes, respectivement celles des *Allophorina* et *Ectophasiina*, bien distinctes par tous leurs caractères (nervation, génitalia mâles et femelles, oeufs, mode de ponte, larves aux trois stades) (cf. Dupuis 1963: 77-86 et contributions antérieures).

Il est donc zoologiquement important de ne pas créer à la légère une sous-tribu *Phasiina*¹⁶ dont on ne saurait pas si elle correspond aux *Allophorina* ou aux *Ectophasiina*. *Phasia* Latr. s. str. n'ayant encore jamais servi de type à un taxon supragénérique¹⁷, la reconnaissance de son acception originale écarte cette possibilité.

L'adoption de *rubra* comme type de *Phasia* entraînerait par contre l'emploi du nom ambigu *Phasiina* pour *Ectophasiina*.

3—Conséquences du point de vue de l'usage

"*Phasiinae*" est indubitablement très employé (y compris sous forme vernaculaire), mais avec des acceptions extrêmement diverses et un contenu étonnamment fluctuant. L'usage qu'on en fait est moins celui d'un taxon défini que d'une étiquette commode.

L'emploi d'*Ectophasiinae* comme conséquence de *statu quo* des types de genres, du fait même qu'il se trouverait chez les auteurs à venir, aurait quelque chance de correspondre à une entité taxonomique plus épurée que naguère *Phasiinae*, tandis que l'adoption de la proposition Herting ne remédierait en rien à la situation actuelle.

RÉSUMÉ, CONCLUSIONS ET CONTRE-PROPOSITIONS

Compte tenu des précisions ci-dessus, on peut admettre que Latreille a trop utilisé les textes pour avoir une connaissance personnelle de *Phasia subcoleoprata* et que le matériel vu sous ce nom dans la collection Fabricius par Meigen peut se rapporter à *Ectophasia rubra*.

Ces constatations zoologiques qui sont, à quelques nuances près, celles de Herting, n'entraînent cependant aucune des conclusions nomenclatoriales qu'en a tirées notre collègue.

Les actions taxonomiques de Latreille, uniquement fondées sur les textes de Fabricius sont valides, indépendamment de toute consultation de matériel. Au demeurant, lorsque Latreille a confondu *Ph. subcoleoprata* avec une autre espèce, c'est—en 1817—avec *Allophora hemiptera* et non pas avec *E. rubra*.

En ce qui concerne Fabricius, tout indique, et Meigen en avait jugé ainsi, que le matériel litigieux n'est pas le type de sa *subcoleoprata*. Au surplus, les textes parfaitement clairs de Fabricius montrent qu'il n'a pu confondre *E. rubra* qu'avec *Allophora hemiptera p.p.*

Seules d'impérieuses considérations d'usage pourraient donc, le cas échéant, conduire à remettre en question, quant au type de *Phasia*, ce que les travaux de Fabri-

¹⁴ Je pense à *Cylindromyinae*, car *Ocypteratae* Robineau-Desvoidy in Blainville 1826 (fondé sur *Ocyptera* R.D. non Latr. 1804 = *Cylindromyia* Meig. 1803) a priorité de ligne sur *Phasiinae* R.D. in Blainville 1826. Il est possible, en effet, que ce nom doive être considéré comme publié au sens du CNZ, car le rapport imprimé de Blainville a été analysé dans le *Bull. des Sc. nat. et de Géol.* de Férussac (t. 10, 1827, pp. 316-318), était connu de Latreille 1829 et existe dans les bibliothèques.

¹⁵ *Ectophasia* étant le synonyme récent valide de *Phasia* R.D. et ce dernier un homonyme récent de *Phasia* Latr., ni CNZ 40, ni CNZ 39a I n'autorisent comme je l'ai cru (1963: 33) la conservation de *Phasiinae*.

¹⁶ Pour cette raison, toute mesure conservatoire (que je ne demande pas) qui pourrait être prise, indépendamment de la proposition Herting, en faveur de *Phasiinae* ne devrait concerner que le nom de sous-famille, à l'exclusion des noms de tribus (ce que je demanderais si nécessaire).

¹⁷ *Phasiina* Townsend 1912: 45 est fondé sur *Phasia* sensu Curtis 1838, Coquillett 1910, i.e. *Allophora* R.D.

cius et de Latreille présentent chacun de magistralement conforme aux exigences nomenclatoriales modernes.

Un examen des conséquences d'une désignation de *rubra* comme type de *Phasia* laisse augurer d'inconvénients nomenclatoriaux, taxonomiques et d'usage, aux divers échelons taxonomiques infra-subfamiliaux et du seul avantage—peut-être provisoire—d'une conservation du nom de sous-famille *Phasiinae*.

Ce n'est pas là un impératif suffisant pour bouleverser ce qui existe sur une base formellement et zoologiquement incontestable.

En conséquence, je présente les contre-propositions suivantes: Afin d'éviter toute confusion et de préserver la stabilité de la nomenclature, la Commission internationale de Nomenclature Zoologique usera de ses *pouvoirs normaux* pour placer:

- (1) dans la *Liste officielle des noms de genres acceptés en Zoologie*, les deux noms de genres:
 - Phasia* Latreille 1804*b* (genre féminin), espèce type: *Thereva subcoleoprata* (F. 1798) désignée valablement par Latreille 1810;
 - Ectophasia* Townsend 1912 (genre féminin), espèce type: *Syrphus crassipennis* F. 1794 désignée valablement par Townsend 1912;
- (2) dans la *Liste officielle des noms d'espèces acceptés en Zoologie* les deux noms d'espèces:
 - subcoleoprata* L. 1767 tel qu'il figure valablement dans *Thereva subcoleoprata* (F. 1798) (espèce type de *Phasia* Latreille 1804);
 - crassipennis* F. 1794 tel qu'il figure valablement dans *Syrphus crassipennis* F. 1794 (espèce type d'*Ectophasia* Townsend 1912).

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ALTERNATIVE TO THE REQUEST FOR A DECLARATION AGAINST THE SUPPRESSION OF *NOMINA DUBIA* Z.N.(S.) 1715

(see volume 22, pages 265-266)

By Hobart M. Smith (*Department of Zoology and Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.*)

The proposal that a Declaration be promulgated establishing an official policy against suppression of *nomina dubia* would, if adopted, be more detrimental than helpful to progress in taxonomy. Therefore I strongly urge that the proposal be denied.

2. It is true that any given *nomen dubium* may never become a *nomen clarum*: that if it does it may not be a threat to another, well-established name; and that it might belong to some species otherwise unnamed, whereupon its earlier suppression would require otherwise unnecessary duplication of name. However, the proposal already embodies the point that rarely do these events transpire.

3. On the contrary, it is commonplace for *nomina dubia* to act as vexatious thorns obstructing taxonomic progress. As long as they exist, they fester. Untold hours of effort that could far better be directed into more constructive channels are lost in the rarely successful attempt to convert a placeless *nomen dubium* into a *nomen clarum*. There comes a point of diminishing return where it would be a travesty to the intent and purpose of the Code for the Commission to refuse to call a halt to the otherwise endless search. Is this not the "confusion" which the Commission is dedicated to reduce? Is it not a contribution to stability to remove uncertainty?

4. Surely refusal by the London Congress then (1958) to take a stand does not imply or warrant the inference that no stand *should* be taken at a later time. The only justified inference, lacking a statement to the contrary, is that a stand would not, or could not, be taken at the time. This could mean no more than absence at that time of sufficient unanimity of opinion to justify a stand.

5. Certainly suppression of a name for purposes of the Law of Priority but not of Homonymy would still leave the name to be reckoned with in synonymies; there is in fact no possible way to strike a name from catalogs and indices, once published therein, and once entered they have to be cited at least to the extent of sourcing the elimination. Better to cite one opinion eliminating a name than any number of essays trying to pin it down!

6. If the policy of facilitation of retirement of *nomina dubia* by suppression upon request is sound, as I urge it is, then it may be construed equally sound to permit retirement of them, again upon request, by designation of neotypes. Inasmuch as each case must be considered separately, adequate opportunity exists for the requisite censorship of the propriety of the proposed procedure in any given case, by either the route of suppression or the route of erection of a neotype. The cases are not likely to be overwhelming in number, but if they become burdensome the docket can be relieved by any of several devices utilized in civil courts. Burdensome or not, the service rendered is one of the most useful contributions the Commission can make toward attainment of the goals stated in the Preamble to its own Code. The sacrifice of time and effort thus required pays limitless dividends in savings of time and effort by untold numbers of taxonomists now and in perpetuity.

7. Retirement of *nomina dubia* through transformation to *nomina clara* might be effected—if authorized by the Code—by approval of arbitrary allocation. However, the problems created exceed the problems solved because of the frequent difficulty of determining incontrovertibly the earliest "valid" "subsequent clarification" and of making clear that *this* particular allocation *must* take precedence over all others in the eyes of all workers. It is therefore here strongly recommended that the Code make explicitly clear that (A) automatic retirement (*i.e.* without individual consideration by the Commission) of *nomina dubia* can be effected only by (1) discovery of criteria that render them *nomina clara*, and by (2) erection of neotypes; and that (B) retirement by (1) suppression or (2) "subsequent clarification" must be authorized by individual consideration by the Commission.

COMMENT ON THE REQUEST FOR ACTION ON THE NAME *VOLUTA MITRA* LINNAEUS, 1758 (GASTROPODA). Z.N.(S.) 1728
(see volume 22, pages 355-356)

By Harald A. Rehder (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.)

I have read the proposal of Dr. Eugene Coan with interest since I am at the moment critically studying the marine mollusca of Polynesia, of which the species under discussion forms a conspicuous element.

At the outset I must point out that alternative (B), as outlined by Coan, cannot be entertained by the Commission since *Voluta mitra* Linnaeus is, in my opinion, not a nomen dubium, since it covers both varieties—*episcopalis* and *papalis*, and must be restricted to one or the other of these varieties as a synonym.

It is my conviction that we should follow Linnaeus' later judgement, as expressed in the *Museum Ludovicae Ulricaе*, 1764, and the twelfth edition of the *Systema Naturae*, 1767, and consider *Voluta mitra* a distinct species, and the trivial names *episcopalis* and *papalis* as denoting varieties, the former being the nominal form. I agree with Dodge (1955, *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* 107 : 121-123) in this particular.

Coan's statement that most authors have abandoned the use of *Voluta mitra* is correct as far as concerns works published in the last century and in the early part of the twentieth century. But it is not true if one considers recent workers. I have gone through rather carefully publications that have appeared in the last twenty-five years, and have found only one in which *Mitra episcopalis* is used; this is the *Handbuch der Palaeozoologie*, Band 6: Gastropoda, Teil 6, 1943 by Wenz, who apparently followed Thiele (1931, *Handbuch Syst. Weichtierk.* 1 : 340). All the other works consulted, twelve in all, published in the years 1941-65, use *Mitra mitra*. And these include many widely used handbooks and manuals. It is apparent, therefore, that the combination *Mitra mitra* (Linnaeus) has come into general use by most professional and amateur malacologists in the last decades, and to return to *Mitra episcopalis* (Linnaeus) would create more confusion than stability.

I, therefore, request that the International Commission take the following action:

- (1) Suppress the varietal name *episcopalis* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Voluta mitra episcopalis* for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.
- (2) Place the specific name *mitra* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Voluta mitra*, and *papalis* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Voluta mitra papalis*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (3) Place the specific name *episcopalis* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Voluta mitra episcopalis* on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

By Myra Keen (Stanford University, Stanford, California, U.S.A.)

It is my conviction that the request by Eugene Coan is in the interests of stability in that the usage of the combination *Mitra episcopalis* was consistent until very recent years, and the adoption of *Mitra mitra* by later authors has been by no means unanimous.

COMMENT ON PROPOSAL TO SUPPRESS FOUR RICHARDSON FISH NAMES. Z.N.(S.) 1740

By W. L. Chan (Fisheries Research Station, Hong Kong)

(see present volume, pages 62-64)

I support in principle the application made by Whitehead (1966, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 23 (1) :62-64) to suppress four fish names proposed by Richardson (1846, *Rept. Fish. Seas China Japan*). In addition, application is made here to suppress for the same reasons a fifth Richardson fish name, *Clupea flosmaris*.

2. While agreeing with Whitehead that the four names should be suppressed, I would like to add some comments on the identity of the three clupeid species involved, based on a knowledge of Chinese vernacular names used in Hong Kong waters. The Chinese names are written below each of the Reeves illustrations of the three clupeid fishes and are recorded by Richardson (*loc. cit.*). These names are still used by Hong Kong fishermen, but not for the species indicated by Whitehead (1966, *Bull. Brit. Mus. nat. Hist. Zool.*, 14(2) : 15-54). But, although my identifications differ from those of Whitehead, each Richardson name still pre-dates a name which is commonly used in the literature; I therefore agree with Whitehead that the Richardson names should be suppressed.

3. The identity of the Richardson species can be commented on briefly.

(i) *Clupea isingleena* Richardson, 1846. Whitehead (*loc. cit.*) identified the holotype as *Sardinella fimbriata* (Valenciennes, 1847). I have shown elsewhere (Chan, 1965, *Jap. J. Ichthyol.*, 13 : 1-39 and figs. 7a, 8a and b) that the scales of the holotype differ from those of *S. fimbriata*; they more nearly resemble those of *Sardinella brachysoma* Bleeker, 1852. Moreover, the Reeves drawing (No. 60), which Richardson identified with his *C. isingleena*, bears a Chinese ideogram which can be rendered as *Tsing-lun*, i.e. green scale, a name which is nowadays applied to specimens of *S. brachysoma* in Hong Kong waters. The Reeves illustration itself bears a very close likeness to the "hypselosoma" form of *Sardinella brachysoma*. However, Bleeker's name *brachysoma* is as firmly entrenched in the literature as Valenciennes' name *fimbriata*, whereas Richardson's name *isingleena* is a *nomen oblitum*. In the interests of stability, Richardson's name should be suppressed, whatever the true identity of the species.

(ii) *Clupea nymphaea* Richardson, 1846. Identified by Whitehead as *Sardinella aurita* Valenciennes, 1846, on the basis of Richardson's description and the Reeves' illustration (No. A 25), the type now being lost. The fish is entitled *Cheung-yiu Lun*, i.e. long-waisted scale, both in the illustration and in the text by Richardson. This name is nowadays applied to specimens of *Sardinella jussieu* (Lacepède, 1803), i.e. *S. gibbosa* (Bleeker, 1849) of some authors. Richardson (*loc. cit.*) gives a pelvic fin ray count of 9 for *Clupea nymphaea*, which is characteristic of *S. aurita* (8 only in *S. jussieu*). Thus, there is no certainty that the Reeves illustration refers to the same species as the Richardson text. Once again, I support Whitehead's application to suppress the Richardson name, which has been constantly misapplied in the literature.

(iii) *Clupea caeruleovittata* Richardson, 1846. There is no type specimen, only a Reeves illustration (No. 59), which Whitehead (*loc. cit.*) identified as probably *Sardinella leiogaster* Valenciennes, 1847. The Reeves illustration is labelled *Wong-tsark*, i.e. golden hue, a name which is nowadays definitely applied to *Sardinella aurita* Valenciennes, 1847. The figure is not inconsistent with that species. Richardson's name, which is in any case a *nomen oblitum*, should be suppressed, whatever the true identity of the species, since the names *aurita* and *leiogaster* are both widely used in the literature.

(iv) *Anguilla clathrata* Richardson, 1846. I support Whitehead's application for the suppression of this *nomen oblitum*, which is otherwise a senior synonym of the well-known Japanese freshwater eel, *Anguilla japonica* Temminck & Schlegel, 1846.

4. *Clupea flosmaris* Richardson, 1846 was based solely on a Reeves illustration (No. 64), labelled with the Chinese name *Hoi-hor*, i.e. sea lily. This species was identified by Whitehead (*loc. cit.*) as possibly a member of either *Herklotsichthys* or *Sardinella*. But this Chinese name nowadays definitely refers to the round herring *Dussumieria acuta* Valenciennes, 1847 and the illustration is consistent with a small specimen of this species. Richardson's name is a *nomen oblitum* and should be suppressed.

5. (i) Application is made to the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to suppress the following name for the purposes of the

Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:

Clupea flos-maris Richardson, 1847.

(ii) The Commission is requested to place the following name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:

flos-maris Richardson, 1846, as published in the binomen *Clupea flos-maris*.

(iii) The Commission is requested to place the following name on the Official List of Specific names in Zoology:

acuta Valenciennes, 1847, as published in the binomen *Dussumieria acuta*.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF THREE
NOMINA OBLITA IN THE FAMILY BELONIDAE (PISCES). Z.N.(S.) 1723
(see volume 22, pages 325-329)

By G. F. Mees (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

In my revisions of the family Belonidae (Mees 1962, 1964), it was demonstrated that several species of this group are far wider ranging than was previously known. One of the results of this was a great simplification in nomenclature: species which previously, in different parts of their range, had been known by different specific names, and sometimes even as different genera, retained one name throughout their ranges. In actual figures, the family Belonidae was reduced from a lowest estimate of some sixty species (for which twenty generic names were available) to twenty-four species, divided over two genera. Over thirty specific names were placed in synonymy for the first time. With such a drastic reduction of species, inevitably many changes in nomenclature were necessary. Sometimes a single species had been known by five and more names in different parts of its range, each name being well-established and "in general use" in a certain region. Basing myself on the principles of priority and clarity of description (some names date from 150 and more years ago, a time when few species of Belonidae were known and the importance of certain characters was not yet realized), I have used the names that on this basis appeared to be the best ones. As each of these old names has a different history, I had to make a separate decision for each name and species, and though I have tried to be consistent, subjectivity could not altogether be avoided: a name rejected by another worker as unidentifiable might be acceptable to me, or vice versa, but I have in each instance clearly stated my reasons for accepting one name and rejecting as unidentifiable another.

Collette & Berry (1965, 1966) disagree with many of my decisions, and have proposed suppression of three specific names I have used. Their proposals are largely based on Art. 23b of the Code, which at present it is proposed to suspend, as it was found to be unworkable (cf. Smith, 1964; Robins, 1965). I shall discuss these names, and two others which have been accepted by Collette & Berry, though they had been rejected by me. As Collette & Berry have presented very ably one side of the picture, I shall try to present the other point of view, so that the Commission can consider both, and make its decisions accordingly.

Esox imperialis Rafinesque, 1810

This name was accepted by me as *Belone imperialis* (Rafinesque), as it was based on a *Belone* species in the Mediterranean which was described as much larger and rarer than the common *Belone bellone*. There are some discrepancies in the description (the number of finrays in D and A as given is too high), but as only two species of *Belone* were known from the Mediterranean, and the species under discussion reaches a length of over 1.50 m, it appeared recognizable*.

Collette & Berry have since mentioned the occurrence of *Belone marisrubri* in the Mediterranean, which would invalidate one of my arguments. Unfortunately they do not give any particulars about this interesting record. *Belone marisrubri* was not recorded for the Mediterranean by Tortonese (1964), and as the species is very common in the Red Sea one might assume that it has recently reached the Mediterranean through

* Collette & Berry (1966: 327) came with the amazing statement that: "... a large proportion of the museum specimens of *Belone belone* [recte: *Belone bellone*] and *Tylosurus acus* that we have examined have been misidentified, so we see no reason to assume that Rafinesque necessarily distinguished between them". Rafinesque (1810), as well as Mongitore (1743), and Cirino (1653), to whom Rafinesque referred, made quite clear that they knew the ordinary *Belone bellone*, and distinguished a second much larger species from it. Full quotations of the relevant passages in these somewhat scarce publications can be found in my revisions (Mees, 1962: 40-41, 1964: 319-320). One wonders if Collette & Berry found so many specimens in collections apparently misidentified because they did not realize that many specimens of *Belone bellone* in collections are labelled as *Belone acus* Risso, not *acus* (La Cèpède).

the Suez Canal. The name *Belone imperialis* dates from many years before the Suez Canal was opened. A point in favour of *B. imperialis* is also that it is this species which amongst Italian fishers is known as Aguglia Imperial, the common name also mentioned by Rafinesque and in older literature. The official Spanish name is Aguja imperial (Rey, 1947: 603).

Collette & Berry (1966: 327) have proposed rejection of the specific name *imperialis* not on the basis of inapplicability, but as: "The name *imperialis* has apparently not been used as a senior synonym since its original description, except by Mees (1962, 1964) and Tortonese (1963)".

As Collette & Berry refer to Tortonese (1963), it is difficult to understand how they arrived at their opinion, for in the paper mentioned reference is made to the following publications in which the name *imperialis* (Rafinesque) is used as the name of the species under discussion: Moreau, 1881; Vinciguerra, 1885; Carus, 1893; D'Ancona, 1931; Tortonese & Trotti, 1949; Lanfranco, 1958. To show that there was not a gap in its use between 1810 and 1881, I further mention Bonaparte (1849). Several of these publications refer to more literature in which the names *Belone imperialis* (Rafinesque) or *Tylosurus imperialis* (Rafinesque) have been used, and far from being a *nomen oblitum* (Collette & Berry, 1965: 391) it appears that the specific name *imperialis* has been in almost continuous use for a century and a half, and is the name that has been the most widely used for the species under discussion in publications dealing with the fish fauna of the Mediterranean. It has also been used for the species in West-Africa (Cadenat & Marchal, 1963: 1303). A further strong point in its favour is that, to the best of my knowledge, it has never been misapplied.

Sphyraena acus La Cepède, 1803

Collette & Berry have advocated the use of *Sphyraena acus* La Cepède, 1803, for the species called *Belone imperialis* by me. My reasons for rejecting the name have been given in full (Mees, 1962: 69-70). When La Cepède proposed the name, based on one of Plumier's drawings, he believed it to be a *Sphyraena*. The name was assigned to the proper genus by Valenciennes (in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1846: 319), who noted that the species was: "tout-à-fait impossible à déterminer". At this the matter was left until 1887 when Jordan & Fordice considered it "probable" that *Sphyraena acus* was applicable to this species. That they were still uncertain about the species involved is apparent from the fact that they distinguished it from "*Tylosurus caribbaeus*" which is the same species. In North American literature, Jordan & Fordice have been followed widely, the words "probable" and "without much doubt" which accompany their opinion being deleted by later workers.

Collette & Berry have proposed placing the name *Sphyraena acus* on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, though admitting that it is "poorly described". Doubtless they suppose that this will best serve stability. However, as I have already demonstrated in the discussion of *Esox imperialis*, they are not sufficiently familiar with the European literature, for in Europe is a *Belone acus* Risso, 1826, which, though a synonym of *Belone bellone*, has been used very extensively in European literature (perhaps sometimes to avoid tautonymy). Thus there was a *Belone acus* in literature twenty years before Valenciennes placed *Sphyraena acus* La Cepède in the genus *Belone*. Superfluous to say that *Belone acus* Risso and *Belone acus* (La Cepède) are different species, and that introduction of the name *acus* (La Cepède) into European literature will lead to considerable confusion, and has done so already (Albuquerque, 1954: 439). There are literally hundreds of references to *Belone acus* Risso in literature, in popular and semi-popular literature, and also in scientific literature at least up to 1955 (Svetovidov, 1955).

Even subsequent to Jordan & Fordice (1887) the name *acus* (La Cepède) has been interpreted differently, for example by Metzelaar (1919), and moreover the name *caribbaea* (lapsus for *carribaea* Lesueur) continued to be used.

Esox belone Var. *Maris rubri* Bloch & Schneider, 1801

There is no doubt about the identity of the name *marisrubri*, which was based on a description by Forskål, but Collette & Berry have asked for its suppression in order to

save *Belona crocodila* Lesueur, 1821, which is a synonym twenty years its junior.

The species listed as *Belone marisrubri* in my revisions is of circumtropical distribution, a fact that had not previously been recognized. Names in general use for it were: *crocodila* Lesueur, 1821 (Indo-Pacific), *choram* Rüppell, 1837 (Red Sea and Indian Ocean), *raphidoma* Ranzani, 1842 (Atlantic and West Indies), *annulata* Valenciennes, 1846 (Indo-Pacific), *gigantea* Temminck & Schlegel, 1846 (Indo-Pacific), *robusta* Günther, 1866 (Red Sea, east coast of Africa), *fodiator* Jordan & Gilbert, 1882 (East Pacific). Less often the names *coromandelica* van Hasselt, 1823, *timucooides* van Hasselt, 1824, and several others are found in literature.

Here is an instance where over a large part of its range the name of the species had to be changed anyway, and where I have used an almost forgotten name (*marisrubri*), on the grounds of clear priority over any of the many names in current use.

Collette & Berry have proposed suppression of the name *marisrubri*, in order to save for use, from the array of available names, the next one in seniority, *Belona crocodila* Lesueur, which they correctly claim has been widely used in literature. They specifically mention its use by Weber & de Beaufort (1922) and in other well-known handbooks. The situation is however far more complicated than as presented by them. Collette & Berry's proposal could easily give the impression that *crocodila* was the most used name for the species in the Indo-Pacific, but in fact the two names most generally used in this area are *annulata* Valenciennes, 1846, and *gigantea* Temminck & Schlegel, 1846. Weber & de Beaufort (1922) for example stated quite clearly that they had not personally examined specimens they could ascribe to *crocodila* and that their description was entirely compiled from literature. The same pertains to several other works: *crocodila* was but compiled from literature, and for actual material the names *gigantea* and *annulata* were used, disagreement existing as to which of these two names, both published in 1846, had priority. In more recent years Fowler (1922) has also revived the name *Belona indica* Lesueur, 1821, for this same species, in which he has found some following (Munro, 1958). The name *indica* is in my opinion indeterminate, but it was proposed in the same paper as *Belona crocodila* and adds to the general confusion.

Where such confusion exists, I certainly believe that it is preferable by far to follow the law of priority and use the name *Belone marisrubri* Bloch & Schneider, rather than arbitrarily select *Belone crocodila*, a name that in recent literature has almost universally been misunderstood. The facts that the identity of *B. marisrubri* is certain, and that it has twenty years priority over the next available name, which gives it a greater chance of survival in case other old names are found in future, add to the arguments in its favour.

Since the publication of my revision, the name *marisrubri* has been used by Woodland & Slack-Smith (1963) and Whitley (1964).

Belona argalus Lesueur, 1821

This is also a name which I have discussed and rejected (Mees, 1962: 70-71). There is very little I can add to my earlier notes. Collette & Berry (1965: 391) remark that: "the number of fin rays given in the text is correct". Previously I had only cautiously observed that: ". . . . the finray numbers D 16, A 19 are rather high for *B. platyura* in the West Indies". In 28 specimens from the West Indies the maximum finray number I found was D 14, A 19 and the maxima recorded by Berry & Rivas (1962) for this region, in as far as I can make out 26 specimens, are the combinations D 14, A 19 and D 15, A 18. Therefore not a single one of 54 specimens examined has the finray formula presented by Lesueur, and though it is very well possible that finray numbers as high as recorded by Lesueur do occasionally occur, it is far fetched, in view of the other discrepancies of the description, that Lesueur would have had such an exceptional individual.

Collette & Berry (1965: 391) have taken out of its context a remark made by me, and state that Lesueur's figure shows a depressed caudal peduncle. In the text, however, Lesueur compares the caudal peduncle with that of *B. truncata* (= *B. houttuyni* of my revisions), and the finray numbers given by him, D 16, A 19, agree also with that species, in which I found D 13-17, A 16-19.

Therefore I see no reason to alter my previous opinion that: "Perhaps the most likely explanation of the many discrepancies in text and figure is that both are composite, assembled from different field notes and sketches."

In this connection I do not quite understand why Collette & Berry choose to defend the name *argalus*, when elsewhere they reject names for the simple reason of having been rarely used. For in the whole Indo-Pacific this species has for long been generally known as *Belone platyura* Bennett, 1832, the name also used by me, and in the West-Indies the name in general use was *Strongylura* (or *Tylosurus*) *ardeola*. The name *Belone argalus* was introduced for this species by Fowler (1919), and subsequently used only a few times. As I have demonstrated (Mees, 1962: 37) the name *Belone ardeola* Valenciennes, 1846, almost certainly applies to *Belone houttuyni*, but anyway, *Belone platyura* Bennett has clear priority over it, and is the name that has had by far the widest use in literature, not only in the Indo-Pacific, but also in the Eastern Atlantic (Cadenat & Marchal, 1963; Cadenat & Roux, 1964) so that it is fortunate that it can be retained for the species.

Esox Houttuyni Walbaum, 1792, versus *Esox marinus* Walbaum, 1792

These two names, together with a third one that might apply to the same species, were published in the same work on the same page. As first reviser to consider these names and recognize their synonymy, I exercised my rights in selecting *Esox Houttuyni* as the valid name. This was not only for chauvinistic reasons (Collette & Berry, 1965: 390), but mainly for the very good reason that, while Houttuyn's description and figure, on which *Esox Houttuyni* was based, are good and can readily be identified as referring to this species, the description on which *Esox marinus* was based does not make sense at all, and was regarded as identifiable only because of its type-locality, New York, as there is apparently only one common species that far north. In accepting *Esox marinus* as applicable I was only consistent as I had accepted *Esox Imperialis* also partly on geographical evidence, though the additional evidence supporting the last-mentioned name is far better than that for *Esox marinus*. As, however, a choice could be made, naturally I selected the name based on the best description, and not open to the chance of different interpretation in future.

It is true, as Collette & Berry pointed out, that the names *Strongylura marina* and *Tylosurus marinus*, derived from *Esox marinus* Walbaum have been much used in literature, but it was by no means the only name applied to the species. In the Americas, the name *timucu* has been used almost or quite as often*, and also in use are the names *almeida*, *truncata*, and *galeata*. In Africa the name most often used for the species is *Belone senegalensis* Valenciennes, 1846.

Collette & Berry (1965: 390) have quoted as "... an even more remarkable statement" my opinion (Mees, 1962: 36) that "... many names in the genus *Belone* have so often been misused that it is perhaps an advantage to have a set of nomenclatorially clean names available to replace them". Contrary to Collette & Berry I do not see why this statement is so remarkable. Once a name has been used in literature for several different species, either because of repeated misidentification, or because of disagreement about the identity of the species originally described, it loses its primary use as a short indication of which species an author is referring to. I believe therefore that in a group as the Belonidae, which was in a chaos, it is fortunate that I have found some old names, like *Belone houttuyni* (Walbaum) and *Belone marisrubri* (Bloch & Schneider), which on the one hand have clear priority, and on the other hand are not loaded down with misapplications and misinterpretations.

* In this connection it is interesting to point out that though Berry & Rivas (1962) call the species *Strongylura marina* in their text, in the abstract in bold printing which precedes their article they call it *Strongylura timucu*. Surely nothing but a slip, but a highly significant one, which shows that the name *timucu* was as familiar to them and as much in their mind as the name *marina*! I regard *Esox timucu* Walbaum, based on Marcgrav, as impossible to identify (Mees, 1962: 73-74).

Subsequent to the publication of my revision, the name *Belone houttuyni* (Walbaum) has been used by Boeseman (1963), Cadenat & Marchal (1963), Cadenat & Roux (1964), and Daget & Iltis (1965).

In conclusion I would counter Collette & Berry's proposal by proposing that the International Commission:

- (1) use its plenary powers to suppress for the purposes of priority but not for those of homonymy the following specific names:
 - (a) *acus* Lacépède, 1803, as published in the combination *Sphyraena acus*;
 - (b) *argalus* Lesueur, 1821, as published in the combination *Belona argalus*;
- (2) place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *houttuyni* Walbaum, 1792, as published in the combination *Esox Houttuyni*;
 - (b) *imperialis* Rafinesque, 1810, as published in the combination *Esox Imperialis*;
 - (c) *marisrubri* Bloch & Schneider, 1801, as published in the combination *Esox belone* Var. *Maris rubri*;
- (3) place the following names on the Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *acus* Lacépède, 1803, as suppressed under (1) (a);
 - (b) *argalus* Lesueur, 1821, as suppressed under (1) (b).

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COSMOPTERIX HÜBNER, 1825 (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA):
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE
PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1742

By Ronald W. Hodges (*Entomology Research Division, Agric. Res. Serv.,
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The purpose of the present application is to insure stability of the name *Cosmopterix* in the sense used by taxonomists for the past 100 years and at the same time to continue the use of the familial name *Cosmopterigidae*.

2. *Cosmopterix*, the type-genus of *Cosmopterigidae* Heinemann and Wocke (1876 : 520), was proposed by Hübner (1825) for seven species, including *Tinea zieglerella* Hübner and *Tinea angustipennella* Hübner, but he did not designate a type-species.

3. Subsequently, two type-species designations have been made. The first was made by Desmarest (1857 : 299) who selected *Tinea angustipennella* as type-species; the second was made by Walsingham (1909 : 4) who selected *Tinea zieglerella* as type-species. (A third, supposed, type-species designation was made by Zeller (1839 : 210); however, no name was listed as type, and two of the names originally included by Hübner in *Cosmopterix* were given. Thus, no type-species was actually selected. Within the same paper Zeller made the incorrect emendation *Cosmopteryx*.)

4. The species *angustipennella* and *zieglerella* are neither congeneric nor even members of the same family; *angustipennella* (a junior synonym of *Phalaena Tinea pedella* Linnaeus) is a species of *Stathmopoda* Herrich-Schäffer, 1853, in the *Heliodinidae* Heinemann and Wocke (1876 : 518); *zieglerella* is a species of *Cosmopterix* in the *Cosmopterigidae*. Subsequent to Herrich-Schäffer's (1853 : 54, pl. 9, f. 22) definition of *Stathmopoda* (monobasic), authors, with the exception of Desmarest, have followed him in recognizing two genera, *Stathmopoda* and *Cosmopterix*.

5. *Cosmopterix*, as defined by Desmarest (this designation had been overlooked until pointed out by me (1961 : 11)), is a heliodinid genus and a senior synonym of *Stathmopoda* (containing more than 220 species). The family name *Heliodinidae* has page priority over *Cosmopterigidae*, so the latter would become a junior synonym of *Heliodinidae*. A junior synonym of *Cosmopterigidae*, *Diplosaridae* Meyrick (1916 : 339) would be used for the genera currently in *Cosmopterigidae*. And, a new generic name would have to be proposed for the species in *Cosmopterix* (*auct.*) (a genus with more than 140 species).

6. Recognition of *Tinea zieglerella* as the type-species of *Cosmopterix* would promote stability of nomenclature by obviating the drastic changes outlined in the preceding paragraph. Therefore, I ask that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the genus *Cosmopterix* Hübner, 1825, made prior to the ruling now

- requested and, having done so, designate *Tinea zieglerella* Hübner, 1796, as type-species of that genus;
- (2) place *Cosmopterix* Hübner, 1825, type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Tinea zieglerella* Hübner, 1796, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
 - (3) place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *zieglerella* Hübner, 1796, as published in the binomen *Tinea zieglerella* (type-species of *Cosmopterix* Hübner, 1825);
 - (4) place the name COSMOPTERIGIDAE (correction of COSMOPTERYGIDAE) Heinemann and Wocke, 1876 (type-species *Cosmopterix* Hübner, 1825) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.

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CHROMIS AUREUS STEINDACHNER, 1864 (PISCES, CICHLIDAE):
PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES.
Z.N.(S.) 1743

By E. Trewavas (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

Chromis aureus Steindachner, 1864 was described from an unstated number of specimens from West Africa. One specimen in the Vienna Museum (No. 32874) is registered as "typus" of this species and agrees with the description, figure and size given by Steindachner. In 1870 Steindachner himself placed the name in the synonymy of "*Chromis niloticus*" (= *Tilapia nilotica*), along with other names some of which have subsequently been recognized as valid. Later it was placed by Pellegrin (1903) and Boulenger (1915) in the synonymy of another species of *Tilapia*.

The species which this type specimen represents was not recognized until 1951, when Steinitz described it as a subspecies of *T. nilotica* from a small isolated population in a rather specialized habitat in the Jordan Valley, naming it *T. n. exul*.

In 1954 it was described again as *T. monodi* Daget, from the Middle Niger. Daget later (e.g. 1961) found it more widely distributed in West Africa. Both these synonyms are subjective.

Although the name *Chromis aureus* has never been literally *oblitum*, the definition of *nomen oblitum* in Art. 23b would technically cover it, because it was not used as a senior synonym since its proposal in 1864, until now, when I propose so to use it (Trewavas, 1966, and in a monograph of the genus *Tilapia* in preparation). All the time the description and figure and at least one type-specimen in Vienna have been available.

I therefore ask the Commission to place the following on the Official List of Specific names in Zoology:

aureus Steindachner, 1864, as published in the binomen *Chromis aureus* with the type-locality narrowed from the original datum "West Afrika" to "River Senegal", where the species which it is believed to represent is known to occur.

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OTOLITHUS AUREUS RICHARDSON, 1846 (PISCES, SCIAENIDAE):
PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES.
Z.N.(S.) 1744

By E. Trewavas (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

Otolithus aureus Richardson, 1846, was described from a specimen from Canton, now lost, and an unpublished illustration in the British Museum with the reference number "Icon. Reeves 234". Since the type was lost even in 1860, the date of the publication of vol. 2 of Günther's "Catalogue of Fishes", Günther recorded the name among his *species dubiae* of *Otolithus*. At that time there was no specimen in the British Museum to match "Icon. Reeves 234", but specimens have since been received although they were only recently recognized as this species (Trewavas & Yazdani, 1966). Meanwhile the species has been redescribed under three names,

Sciaena ophiceps Alcock, 1889 (Bay of Bengal)

Johnius birtwistlei Fowler, 1933 (Singapore)

Pseudosciaena acuta Tang, 1937 (Kwantung).

These are, of course, all subjective synonyms and the evidence for their synonymy is given by Trewavas & Yazdani (l.c.)

The name *O. aureus* has not been used, to my knowledge, since its listing by Günther as a *species dubia*, except by Chu, Lo & Wu (1913), who regard it as a junior synonym of *Otolithus ruber* Schneider, 1801 (wrongly, according to evidence given by Trewavas and Yazdani). Although it was properly a *nomen dubium* it would come within the definition of *nomen oblitum* in Art. 23(b). Following the taxonomic procedure accepted before 1961, Trewavas & Yazdani have established it by publishing a photograph of "icon. Reeves 234" and selecting a neotype from Hong Kong waters, very near the type locality. They have made *O. aureus* type species of a new genus. They have also given full reasons for the synonymy recorded above, with photographs of two of the syntypes of *Sciaena ophiceps*.

Strict adherence to Art. 23(b) would require the beheading of this synonymy by the removal of *O. aureus* and perhaps also of *S. ophiceps*, unless the mention of this name by Fowler in 1933 to decide (wrongly as we maintain) that it was distinct from *J. birtwistlei* is sufficient to drag it within the fifty-year limit.

No useful purpose could be served by such action. The species has received little attention. The name *acuta* has been used by Chinese authors only three times to my knowledge, and they would be less disturbed by replacing it by *aureus* than by *birtwistlei*, used only once (or *ophiceps* if this is available).

O. aureus is one of the names of the vast Indo-Pacific fauna which, as J. L. B. Smith (1964) points out, cannot be expected to be stabilized until revisions covering the whole area are carried out. Indeed all of Prof. Smith's arguments against Art. 23(b) apply in force to this case, not least the fact that a proposed restriction of 23(b) allegedly under consideration would, if adopted at a future Congress, immediately re-establish the name.

I therefore request the Commission, if necessary by the use of its plenary powers, to place the following on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology: *aureus* Richardson, 1846, as published in the binomen *Otolithus aureus*, type species of *Chrysochir* Trewavas & Yazdani, 1966 (Pisces, Sciaenidae).

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MACROCHOETA MACQUART, 1851 (INSECTA, DIPTERA): PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1745

By A. C. Pont (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

This application concerns the threat to stability in the nomenclature of the Muscidae caused by the discovery that *Macrochoeta* Macquart, 1851, is a senior subjective synonym of *Pygophora* Schiner, 1868.

2. Macquart 1851 (*Mém. Soc. Sci. Agric. Lille* 1850 : 242) described *Macrochoeta rufipes*, as a new genus and a new species.

3. Bigot 1882 (*Ann. Soc. ent. France* (6) 2 : 11 and 20) alluded to the genus and, without having seen it, included it in a key to Muscid genera.

4. Stein 1919 (*Arch. Naturgesch.* 83 A 1 [1917] : 86), in the preamble to his catalogue of world Muscidae, stated that he was unable to recognize *Macrochoeta* (sic) and was therefore omitting it from his list.

5. Tillyard 1926 (*The Insects of Australia and New Zealand*: 374) referred to *Macrochoeta* (sic) as a small genus peculiar to Australia.

6. Albuquerque 1949 (*Revista bras. Biol.* 9 : 440) was the first student since Macquart to examine the holotype, and he stated that *Macrochoeta* (sic) was very similar to *Pygophora* Schiner.

7. Pont (in press) has studied the holotype of *Macrochoeta rufipes* and concluded that it is identical with the species *Pygophora abnormalis* Paramonov, 1961. He established this specific synonymy, and stated the desirability of suppressing *Macrochoeta* by use of the plenary powers.

8. Grube 1850 (*Arch. Naturgesch.* 16 (1) : 312) erected the genus *Macrochoeta* for a group of polychaete worms.

9. *Macrochoeta* Grube and *Macrochoeta* Macquart are not homonyms, despite identity of meaning. As it fulfils the provisions of Article 32 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, 1961, *Macrochoeta* is the correct spelling of this name, although dipterists would usually spell this suffix "-chaeta". *Macrochoeta* Macquart, of authors, is an incorrect subsequent spelling and does not enter into homonymy under Article 54(4) of the *Code*.

10. Schiner 1868 (*Nov. Reise, Diptera* : 295) described *Pygophora apicalis*, as a new genus and a new species.

11. Every student dealing with this group of flies has used Schiner's name, and there has until now never been any doubt concerning its validity. Van der Wulp, Stein, Malloch, Séguy, Van Emden, Hennig, Paramonov, Crosskey and Snyder have used the name *Pygophora* in a total of at least 39 papers.

12. Crosskey 1962 (*Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 29 (6) : 393-551) has revised the genus which now includes 53 species recognized as valid and 11 names placed in synonymy. Several new species await description.

13. The transfer of these species to the unrecognized generic name *Macrochoeta* is against the interest of nomenclatural stability and the name *Pygophora* should continue to be available for this generic concept. The interests of stability and uniformity in nomenclature will best be served if *Macrochoeta* is suppressed, and the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Macrochoeta* Macquart, 1851, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, in the interests of stability and uniformity of nomenclature in the Muscidae;
- (2) to place the following generic name on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
Pygophora Schiner, 1868 (gender : feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Pygophora apicalis* Schiner, 1868;
- (3) to place the following specific name on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
apicalis Schiner, 1868, as published in the binomen *Pygophora apicalis* (type-species of *Pygophora* Schiner, 1868);
- (4) to place the following generic name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology:
Macrochoeta Macquart, 1851 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above).

AMPHISBAENA MILDEI PETERS, 1878 (REPTILIA): PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1746

By Carl Gans (*State University of New York, Buffalo, U.S.A.*)

In 1878, W. C. H. Peters (*Monats. Ber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin 1878* : 779) described the new species *Amphisbaena mildei* on the basis of a single specimen from "Pôrto Alegre". The holotype was once deposited as No. 6255 in the Zoologische Museum der Universität, Berlin. Dr. Heinz Wermuth, former curator of this collection, has informed me that the specimen was lost when the materials were moved from storage after World War II. No other specimens have been reported.

2. The name was retained by G. A. Boulenger in his 1885 Catalogue of the Lizards in the British Museum Volume 2, but others placed it into the synonymy of *Amphisbaena darwini* D.B. from which Peters separated it by the arrangement of the head scales.

3. Revisionary work now shows that *Amphisbaena darwini* auct. is a complex of at least 4 species, 3 of which occur in the immediate vicinity of Pôrto Alegre, R.G.S., Brazil. It is possible to assign the name *mildei* to one of these (*Amphisbaena darwini* Duméril and Bibron, 1839, *Erpétologie Générale ou Histoire Naturelle des Reptiles 5* : 490) with some degree of certainty, although there is a suspicion that the specimen may have been abnormal since the original description refers to asymmetries (p. 780). Unfortunately, the description lacks mention of the very obvious caudal tuberculation which is uniformly present in specimens of *A. darwini* of this size collected at Pôrto Alegre, and also of the number of mid body segments.

The issue is further complicated by the fact that *darwini* has several races and at least 3 recognizable populations of this species occur within 50 miles of the capital city of Pôrto Alegre. Two of these lack caudal tuberculation so that the information given by Peters does not permit unequivocal assignment of the name to any of the forms in this region.

4. The name in question has been cited only 5 times in the present century, twice in a list without any more comments except that the form is known from the type specimen only (Goeldi, 1902; Burt & Burt 1933) and 3 times in synonymy, also without comment, by de Amaral who placed a host of series of forms into synonymy as aberrations.

5. There are available names for each of the other populations concerned, but all except *A. darwini* date after 1878. The one for the population from which the type of *Amphisbaena mildei* was most probably sampled is *Amphisbaena trachura* Cope, 1885 (*Proc. Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences* : 189), of which the type specimen is still available and leaves no doubt of its assignment. This name was most recently used by Vanzolini (1951 thesis; 1953 *Copeia* : 124).

6. The problem could be solved by designating a neotype to replace the type lost from the Zoological Museum der Universität, Berlin, but as the name *mildei* has not been used in the 50 years prior to 1961 (publication date of the Code) in primary zoological nomenclature except in synonymy (see paragraph

4 above), it is virtually a *nomen oblitum* and its suppression as such would create less confusion than the probable replacement of *Amphisbaena trachura* Cope by the practically unknown name *A. mildei* Peters. Such action by the Commission would certainly serve the principle of stability by stopping speculation on this issue, and by preventing resurrection of this name and disturbance of the literature should a specimen having some claim to typical status be found in the future. This is the action which has been recommended in a paper on this group accepted for publication in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History.

7. Unfortunately the Secretary of the Commission informs me that the application of Article 23(b) is now out of the question until after the next Congress of Zoology since this Article has been suspended by a majority vote of the Commission until that time. I do not feel that such a long delay is in the interest of stability.

8. In consequence the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is requested:

- (a) to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *Amphisbaena mildei* Peters, 1878 for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not of the Law of Homonymy;
- (b) to place the name *trachura* Cope, 1885, as published in the binomen *Amphisbaena trachura*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (c) to place *mildei* Peters, 1878, as published in the binomen *Amphisbaena mildei*, as suppressed in (a) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.