

SYNONYMIC NOTES ON AQUATIC RHYNCHOTA.

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I AM aware that this paper will not meet with approval from many Rhynchotists, owing to the number of nomenclatural changes it necessitates; nevertheless, I believe that such changes are, in the end, for the good of science, and that therefore the sooner they are done the better.

Fam. HYDROMETRIDÆ.

1. HYDROBATES, Erichson, 1848, is preoccupied by Boie (Aves, 1822), and also by Vieillot and Temminck (Aves—Cuculidæ and Anatidæ); it will be therefore necessary to employ CYLINDROSTETHUS, first characterized by Fieber, Europ. Hem. 33 (1861); as, however, no species was there assigned to it, one must write *Cylindrostethus*, Mayr, that author being the first to adopt a species.

The synonymy can therefore be thus stated:—

CYLINDROSTETHUS, Mayr, Verh. zb. Ges. Wien xv. 444 (1865),
(Fieb. Europ. Hem. 33, 1861).

= *Hydrobates*, Erichs. in Schomb. Faun. Brit. Guiana, 614
(1848) [nec Boie].

Type. *Hydrobates linearis*, Erichs., l. c. 614.

2. The following species of *Gerris*, mentioned in Stephens's Syst. Catal. Brit. Ins. ii. (1829), are merely list-names, descriptions not having been published, viz. *aterrima* (353), *brachypteryx* (352), *nana* and *phæoptera* (353), and *thoracica* (352) [not necessarily *thoracica*, Schummel].

In Lethierry and Severin's invaluable Catal. génér., MS. species are not noticed. It would, I think, have been an advantage had these been added, as one often has occasion to examine specimens labelled with unfamiliar names, which may be either MS. or belonging to species the descriptions of which one has overlooked.

3. Fam. GELASTOCORIDÆ, nov. nom. for GALGULIDÆ.

Type genus. GELASTOCORIS, nov. nom. gen. for *Galgulus*, Latr., 1802, preoccupied by Brisson (Aves), 1760.

Type. *Naucoris oculata*, Fab., 1798.

4. Fam. BELOSTOMATIDÆ.

DEINOSTOMA, nom. gen. nov., for *Serphus*, Stål, 1862, preoccupied by Schrank, 1780, and Haliday, 1832. It is a pity that Mayr did not adopt a new name in his Monograph (1871) instead of merely indicating that a change was necessary. The type will of course be *Belostoma dilatata*, Say, and the principal references as follows:—

DEINOSTOMA DILATATUM (Say).

Belostoma dilatata, Say, New Harmony, 38 [1832?]; reprint in Ann. Rep. N. Y. Agric. Soc. 810 (1858), and in Complete Writ. i. 366 (1869); Walker, Catal. Hem. Brit. Mus. viii. 177 (1873).

Zaitha stollii (nec Am. Serv.), Herr.-Schf. Wanz. Ins. ix. 35, pl. 292, f. 897 ♂, f. 898 ♀ (1853) [*fide* Stål and Uhler].

Serphus dilatatus, Stål, Stett. Ent. Zeit. xxiii. 462 (1862); Mayr, Verh. z. Ges. Wien, xxi. 403 (1871); Uhler, Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv. (2), v. 338 (1876).

5. Fam. CORIXIDÆ.

Corixa annexa (Uhl.), Walk. Catal. Hem. Brit. Mus. viii. 199 (1873), is MS. (*fide* Uhler).

6. *Corixa esculenta*, Motsch., Etud. Entom. v. 77 (1856); there is no description, merely a note to the effect that the ova are used for food in Egypt. A reference to this species is given by Guérin-Ménéville, Bull. Soc. Zool. Acclim. iv. 581 (1858). [This date is usually quoted 1857, but as the séance was held Dec. 4th, 1857, it is unlikely that publication took place before 1858.]

7. *Corixa atomaria*, Illiger (Puton), or Germar (Fieber).

This name appears to be MS., as regards the two older authors quoted; the earliest description I can trace is that of Fieber, Bull. Moscou, xxi. (pt. 1), 515 (1848), which is later than that of *C. panzeri*, *l.c.* 515, and also than that of *C. affinis*, Leach, Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. xii. 18 (1818); this last name—*affinis*—must therefore be used. I am indebted to Dr. Puton for information regarding Illiger, but I fear that with his strong views upon the Law of Prescription, he will not approve of the use to which that information has been put.

The synonymy of *C. affinis* stands at present:—

C. AFFINIS, Leach.

C. affinis, Leach, *l.c. supra*.

panzeri } Fieber, *l.c. supra*.
atomaria }

panzerii } Fieber, Abh. k. böhm. Ges. Wiss. (v.) 7, 227,
atomaria } pl. 1, f. 3 and 5 (1851).

panzeri and *affinis*, B. White, E. M. M. x. 61 and 76 (1873).
salina, Thoms., Opusc. Ent. i. 29 (1869).

(var.) *atomaria* var. *conglomerata*, Rey, Rev. d'Ent. ix. 29 (1890).

It is also the *striata* of Panzer and the *graphiptera* of Rambur, and I believe (though Reuter says this equals *C. geoffroyi*, Leach) that it is *striata*, Geoff., Hist. abrég. i. 478, pl. ix. f. vii. (1762), in which case *affinis* would be the type-species of the genus *Corixa*).

I cannot imagine why nearly all my colleagues prefer the spelling *CORISA*; Geoffroy wrote *CORIXA*, but since his time many erudite authors (from Amyot and Audinet-Serville, 1843) have laboured to show that *Corisa* is the correct orthography; the word is presumably derived from Greek "koris," the stem of which is "kori-"; it is evident therefore that the suffixes "-xa" and "-sa" are both merely ornamental, and equally correct in a grammatical sense; in any case Geoffroy's original orthography should be adhered to.

8. *MICRONECTA*, nov. gen. nom., for *Sigara*, Fab. Ent. Syst. iv. 60 (partim), 1794, and Syst. Rhyng. 104 (partim), 1803, et auctt.; neque Fab. Syst. Ent. 691 (1775), neque Gen. Ins. 177 (1776), neque Spec. Ins. 332 (1781).

Type. *Notonecta minutissima*, L. (*Sigara minutissima*, auctt.).

It is extraordinary that Fabricius's genus should have been used so long for the tiny water-bugs of which *Notonecta minutissima* is the representative. It was erected in 1775, Syst. Ent. 691, for one species—*striata*—which the author quoted as *Notonecta striata*, L.; he further cited as a synonym (!) of his genus Geoffroy's *Corixa*. The two genera *Corixa* and *Sigara* are thus absolutely identical, and the fact that *S. minuta* (*minutissima*, L.) was added in 1794 cannot affect this. Thirty-nine species have been described and grouped under the genus, of which four belong to another genus; the remainder represent perhaps twenty-five species.

SUMMARY.

1. *Cylindrostethus* (Fieb.) Mayr, should replace *Hydrobates*, Erichs. (nec Boie). Type: *C. linearis* (Erichs.).

2. *Gerrisaterrima*, *brachypteryx*, *nana*, *phaeoptera* and *thoracica*, Stephens, are MS.

3. *Gelastocoridæ*, nov. fam. nom., for *Galgulidæ*. *Gelastocoris*, nov. nom. gen. for *Galgulus*, Latr. (nec Brisson). Type: *G. oculatus* (Fabr.).

4. *Deinostoma*, nov. nom. gen. for *Serphus*, Stål (nec Schrank). Type: *D. dilatatum* (Say).

5-7. *Corixa annexa*, Uhl., *esculenta*, Motsch., and *atomaria*, Illiger, are MS. *Corixa affinis*, Leach, 1818, should replace *C. atomaria*, Fieb., 1848.

8. *Micronecta*, nov. nom. gen. for *Sigara*, Fab. (1794, in part) et auctt. (nec Fab., 1775). Type: *M. minutissima* (L.).

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