

OPINION 71

INTERPRETATION OF THE EXPRESSION "TYPICAL SPECIES" IN
WESTWOOD'S (1840) SYNOPSIS.

SUMMARY.—The species cited by Westwood, 1840 (*An Introduction to the Modern Classification of Insects*, vol. 2, Synopsis, separate pagination, pages 1 to 158), as "typical species" are to be accepted as definite designations of genotypes for the respective genera. The question whether any given species under consideration represents the valid genotype or not is dependent upon two points: *First*, whether the species was available as genotype and, *second*, whether this designation in 1840 is antedated by some other designation.

STATEMENT OF CASE.—J. C. Crawford and Chas. H. T. Townsend have requested an Opinion upon the question whether the species cited by Westwood (1840) in his Synopsis, and designated "Typical species" are to be accepted as types of the genera in question. Dr. Townsend's presentation of the case reads as follows:

J. O. Westwood published in volume 2 of his *Introduction to the Modern Classification of Insects*, in 1840, under the title of "Synopsis of the Genera of British Insects," 158 octavo pages of generic diagnoses, including a specific name with each genus. With reference to the function of this specific name, we find footnote on first page stating that following data are given in first line of each genus: "1. Name of the genus; 2. Name of its founder; 3. Synonym of the genus; 4. Author of the synonymical genus; 5. Number of British species; 6. Typical species; 7. Reference to the best figure."

It is plainly evident that this "Synopsis" is entirely restricted to the British species, and that the selection of the "typical species" has necessarily been restricted in each case to the British fauna, thereby resulting often in a genotype that is not typical in the sense of the founder of the genus.

Does the Commission rule that mention in this "Synopsis" of the "typical species," meaning unquestionably "typical *British* species," constitutes a valid designation of genotype?

Westwood makes the following statement in the preface (p. vi, vol. 1) to his "Introduction":

"At the same time, in order that this work may serve as a precursor to the works of Curtis, Stephens, &c., I have added a synopsis of the British genera, brought down to the present time. The idea of the addition of this synopsis was derived from Latreille's "Considérations Générales," in which the genera are shortly characterised, and the names of the typical species given in an Appendix. The additions of generic synonymes, references to generic figures, and indications of the number of British species, will render the synopsis more complete, although it must be evident that it can serve but as a guide to more extended research."

C. H. T. T.

DISCUSSION.—The question has been submitted by the Secretary of this Commission to the Secretary of the International Commission on Entomological Nomenclature, who has reported as follows:

Although some members of the Entomological Committee are of opinion that Westwood did not mean to designate genotypes in the modern sense, it is unanimously agreed that the species mentioned by Westwood under a genus should be considered genotype, if it was originally included in the genus, and if no genotype has been designated prior to Westwood.

That some authors have used the expression "Typical species" simply in the sense of a characteristic example of a genus, and that others have used it in the sense of "Type species," seems quite clear. Accordingly each paper must be judged separately in deciding whether the case in question fulfills the requirements of the Code that "the meaning of the expression 'select the type' is to be rigidly construed. Mention of a species as an illustration or example of a genus does not constitute a selection of a type."

In connection with Westwood's Synopsis, there are two points of evidence that seem to come into special consideration in arriving at an interpretation of his use of the expression "Typical species."

First, Westwood (1839, vol. 1, p. vi, Introduction to Modern Classification of Insects) distinctly states that "The idea of the addition of this synopsis was derived from Latreille's *Considérations Générales*, in which the genera are shortly characterised, and the names of the typical species given in an Appendix"; accordingly Westwood intended that his Synopsis with "Typical species" should correspond to Latreille's "Table des genres avec l'indication de *l'espèce qui leur sert de type*" [*italics not in the original*].

The Commission has already adopted the Opinion (no. 11, pp. 17-18) that Latreille's Table . . . "should be accepted as designation of types of the genera in question (Art. 30)." Accordingly, since Westwood definitely states that his idea was obtained from Latreille's (1810) publication, it would appear logical to conclude that Westwood's (1840) Synopsis also is to be construed as designation of genotype.

Second: The foregoing interpretation of Westwood's citation receives support in the fact that in his Synopsis (see the case of *Demetrias*) he cites the original generic name under which the species was published. For instance, on p. 1, he gives the following: "*Demetrias* Bonelli. *Rhysophilus* Leach. 4 sp. *Carab. atricapillus* Linn." This is a method of citation very common among authors who are designating genotypes, but it is relatively uncommon when an author is simply citing a species as an example of a genus. In the

latter case it is usually the custom to cite the specific name only in combination with the name of the genus for which it is quoted as an example.

On the basis of the foregoing premises the Secretary recommends that the Commission confirm the report from the Entomological Commission, and adopt as its opinion the following:

The species cited by Westwood, 1840 (An Introduction to the Modern Classification of Insects, vol. 2, Synopsis, separate pagination, pages 1 to 158), as "Typical species" are to be accepted as definite designations of genotypes for the respective genera. The question whether any given species under consideration represents the valid genotype or not is dependent upon two points: *First*, whether the species was available as genotype, and *second*, whether this designation in 1840 is antedated by some other designation.

Opinion written by Stiles.

Opinion concurred in by 14 Commissioners: Allen, Bather, Blanchard, Dautzenberg, Handlirsch, Horváth, Hoyle, Jordan (D. S.), Jordan (K.), Monticelli, Skinner, Stejneger, Stiles.

Opinion dissented from by 1 Commissioner: Apstein.

Not voting, 3 Commissioners: Kolbe, Roule, Simon.

Apstein signs the concurrence in the Opinion but adds: Ich halte es ausgeschlossen dass Westwood Type in unserem jetzigen Sinne gemeint hat. Sind Typen bis jetzt bestimmt, so sollen sie nicht zu Gunsten von Westwood geändert werden, wenn sie auch erst zwischen 1840-1916 bestimmt sind. [In the last line of the Opinion Apstein inserts between the words "other" and "designation" the expression "auch späteren (als 1840)"; thus in reality he dissents from the Opinion.—C. W. S.]