

OPINION 79

CASE OF LAMARCK'S (1801A) SYSTÈME DES ANIMAUX
SANS VERTÈBRES

SUMMARY.—“Rigidly construed,” Lamarck's (1801a) *Système des Animaux sans Vertèbres* is not to be accepted as designation of type species.

STATEMENT OF CASE.—Dr. J. Chester Bradley has submitted to the Commission the following question:

Is the *Système des Animaux sans Vertèbres* of Lamarck, 1801¹ to be accepted as designating types of genera?

In the work cited, Lamarck, after the description of each genus, cites at least one species, frequently two, which would at first sight appear to be mere examples and not construable as designated types.

But on p. viii he states: “Pour faire connoître d'une manière certaine les genres dont je donne ici les caractères, j'ai cité sous chacun d'eux une espèce connue, ou très-rarement plusieurs, et j'y ai joint quelques synonymes que je puis certifier; cela suffit pour me faire entendre.”

This work was not accepted by Rohwer² nor by Viereck³ in their careful attempts to fix the types of the genera of sawflies and of ichneumonwasps. It has been accepted in a paper by Morice & Durrant,⁴ but these authors accept several works that clearly do not fix generic types in the sense of the Code.

DISCUSSION.—In another Opinion (No. 81, on *Cimex*) the Commission has not interpreted this book by Lamarck as fixing types, and no new evidence is now presented which appears to warrant the reversal of this interpretation. In the view of the Commission, Lamarck cites a “known species, or very rarely several” as examples, in order to illustrate the genera, but rigidly construed, he does not fix the types.

¹ Lamarck, Jean Baptiste Pierre Antoin de Monet *chevalier de*. *Système des animaux sans vertèbres, ou Tableau général des classes, des ordres et des générés de ces animaux Par J. B. Lamarck Paris, Deterville, An ix—1801, viii, 452, p. fold. tables, 20 cm.*

² Rohwer, Sievert Allen II. The genotypes of the sawflies and wood-wasps, or the superfamily *Tenthredinoidea*. By S. A. Rohwer Washington, 1916, < Technical series, No. 20, part H., U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology.

³ Viereck, Henry Lorenz Type species of the genera of ichneumonflies. By Henry L. Viereck 1914, < Smithsonian Institution, U. S. National Museum, Bulletin 83.

⁴ Morice, F. D. & John Hartley Durrant. The authorship and first publication of the “Jurinean” genera of Hymenoptera: Being a reprint of a long lost work by Panzer, with a translation into English, and introduction, and bibliographical and critical notes < Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1914: 339-436.

This interpretation is supported by an examination of Lamarck's (1816b) *Hist. Nat. des Anim. sans Vertéb.*, in which he does not even cite certain species mentioned in 1801. For instance, in 1801, p. 293, he cites only *P. rufipes* under *Pentatoma*; if he had intended this as type designation, he would, presumably, have cited this species under *Pentatoma* in 1816b, 492-494, but he does not do so; he stated that *Pentatoma* contains a large number of species, of which he cites three: *acuminata*, *baccarum* and *prasina*.

Opinion written by Stiles.

Opinion concurred in by 14 Commissioners: Allen, Apstein, Bather, Handlirsch, Hartert, Hoyle, Jordan (D. S.), Jordan (K.), Kolbe, Loennberg, Monticelli, Skinner, Stejneger, and Stiles.

Opinion dissented from by two Commissioners: Horváth, Dautzenberg.

Not voting, two Commissioners: Roule, Simon.

Dautzenberg says: "A l'époque où Lamarck a publié son Système des Animaux sans Vertèbres, on n'attachait pas à la fixation des types des genres l'importance ni la précision que nous lui attribuons aujourd'hui. En désignant pour chaque genre une espèce connue, accompagnée de références, 'afin de se faire bien entendre,' Lamarck a certainement voulu désigner ce que nous appelons aujourd'hui des *types*, aussi ne verrais-je aucun inconvénient en ce qui concerne les mollusques, à adopter pour *types* les espèces citées connue *exemples* dans le Système des An. sans vert., car il ne s'agit, en somme que de deux mots différents, mais qui ont exactement la même signification."