

OPINIONS RENDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

OPINIONS 124 TO 133

OPINION 124

LINNAEUS, 1758, SUBDIVISIONS OF GENERA

SUMMARY.—The various Subdivisions of genera published by Linnaeus in 1758 are not to be accepted as of this date (1758) as of subgeneric value under the International Rules.

STATEMENT OF CASE.—Several zoologists have requested the Commission to make a definite ruling in regard to the status of the subdivision of genera found in Linnaeus, 1758*a*. One case is before the Commission at present (*Bulla*) which makes a ruling on this point very desirable and at least one other case is likely to be submitted to the Commission in the very near future.

DISCUSSION.—Considerable difference of opinion exists among zoologists as to the status of the subdivisions of genera used by Linnaeus, 1758*a*.

On account of the situation presented, the Commission has made a page by page study of the tenth edition of the "Systema Naturae" and has tabulated the subdivisions into various categories. A result of this tabulation shows conclusively that it is impossible to look upon all these subdivisions as definitely named subgenera, and if one attempts to grant subgeneric nomenclatorial value to certain of these categories and to deny it to others it is found to be exceedingly difficult, in fact impossible, to present a plan which is free from objection.

The subject was laid before the Commission in Circular Letter No. 137, series 1928, and this Circular Letter with the text of the tenth edition was studied by the Commission during its meeting in Padua in August and September 1930.

As a result of this study the Commission adopted the following paragraph in its Minutes for August 30, 1930:

After a discussion of the so-called subgenera in Linnaeus, 1758*a*, the Secretary was instructed to prepare an Opinion to the effect that these are not sub-

genera, but if any group of specialists finds that because of the literature on said group this Opinion will produce greater confusion than uniformity, the Commission is prepared to take up individual cases under arguments which may be submitted.

Pursuant to these instructions, the Secretary presented the draft of this Opinion for formal vote.

The adoption of this Opinion automatically settles the case of *Bulla* now before the Commission, i. e., the alleged subgenus *Bulla* Linn., 1758, insect, is not a subgenus under this Opinion and therefore does not affect in any way the standing of *Bulla* Linn., 1758a, mollusk.

Even in absence of this Opinion the case of *Bulla* would be settled under the following amendment to Article 36 (on homonyms) adopted at Padua, 1930:

When homonyms are of the same date, whether by the same or by different authors, then any name proposed for a genus takes precedence over a name [its homonym] proposed for a subgenus. The same principle is applicable to homonyms of species and subspecies of identical date.

The Secretary has the honor to recommend that the Summary as given above be accepted as the Opinion of the Commission.

Opinion prepared by Stiles.

Opinion concurred in by thirteen (13) Commissioners: Apstein, Bather, Chapman, Cabrera, Pellegrin, Horvath, Ishikawa, Jordan (K.), Stephenson, Silvestri, Stejneger, Stiles, Stone.

Opinion dissented from by no Commissioner.

Not voting, five (5) Commissioners: Bolivar, Handlirsch, Jordan (D. S.), Richter, Warren.