

**OPINIONS RENDERED BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

*Edited by*  
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**OPINION 135**  
The suppression of the so-called "Erlangen List"  
of 1801

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NOTE:—Opinions One to One Hundred and Thirty-Three (Opinions 1-133) rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature were not published by the Commission itself, owing to lack of funds. Through the intermediary of Dr. C. W. Stiles, at that time Secretary to the International Commission, the Smithsonian Institution very kindly came to the aid of the Commission and agreed to publish the Opinions of the Commission in the *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*. Unfortunately, all except a few of the most recent of the above Opinions are now out of print, and are therefore no longer obtainable by working zoologists. In order to remedy the serious position so created, it is proposed, as soon as funds are available, to reprint Opinions 1 to 133 as Volume 1 of *Opinions Rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*.



## OPINION 135.

### THE SUPPRESSION OF THE SO-CALLED "ERLANGEN LIST" OF 1801.

**SUMMARY.**—The so-called "Erlangen List" of 1801 is to be treated as though it had never been published.

#### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

At the Fifth International Congress of Entomology held in Paris in July, 1932, Section VIII of the Congress (the Section on Nomenclature) appointed a special Committee for the duration of the Congress to consider questions of nomenclature of special interest to entomologists. Prior to the close of the Congress this Committee submitted to Section VIII a series of Draft Resolutions, one of which read as follows :—

" Le Congrès propose à la Commission pour la Nomenclature zoologique de supprimer les noms génériques de la soi-disant Liste d'Erlangen de 1801, parce que l'acceptation de ces noms bouleverserait la nomenclature des Hyménoptères."

#### II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE.

2. The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted by Section VIII of the Congress, which agreed to submit it and certain other Resolutions to the Plenary Session of the Congress, for transmission to the International Committee on Entomological Nomenclature. At the Plenary Session of the Congress, this Resolution was adopted in the manner proposed, and it was accordingly thereby referred to the International Committee.

3. This question was carefully considered by the International Committee on Entomological Nomenclature in September, 1935, at their Meeting held in Madrid during the Meeting of the Sixth International Congress of Entomology; and the Committee agreed to submit to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature a recommendation supporting the Resolution set out in paragraph 1 above, and expressing the hope that the Commission at their next Meeting would agree to render an Opinion in the sense of the said Resolution.

### III.—THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature gave consideration to this question later in September, 1935, at their Meeting held in Lisbon during the Meeting of the Twelfth International Zoological Congress. At this Meeting the International Commission unanimously adopted the following Resolution which was incorporated in their Report to the International Zoological Congress as paragraph 17 thereof:—

“17. *Suppression of the so-called 'Erlangen List' of 1801.*—The International Commission have had under consideration the anonymous pamphlet dealing with the generic classification of the Hymenoptera, which was published in 1801 under the title *Nachricht von Einen neuen entomologischen (sic) Werke des Hrn. Prof. JURINE in Geneve*, and which is commonly known as the 'Erlangen List'. The International Commission are convinced that the adoption of the names contained in this pamphlet in accordance with the strict application of the rules would clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity. Acting, therefore, in virtue of the plenary powers conferred upon them at the Monaco session of the International Zoological Congress, the International Commission hereby declare that the so-called 'Erlangen List' is to be treated as though it had never been published. Consequential on the above, it should be understood that where subsequently any author published a genus having the same name as one of the genera proposed in the 'Erlangen List', the later published name is not to be regarded as a homonym by reason of the earlier publication of that name in the 'Erlangen List'.”

5. The Report of the International Commission containing the foregoing paragraph was adopted unanimously at the Meeting of the Commission held on the morning of Wednesday, 18th September, 1935; and by the Section on Nomenclature at the Meeting held on the afternoon of the same day. The Report was accordingly submitted to the International Zoological Congress by which it was unanimously adopted at the Concilium Plenum of the Congress held on the afternoon of Saturday, 21st September, 1935, the last day of the Congress.

6. In view of the possibility that it might be held that the Opinion as set out in the extract from the Commission's Report quoted in paragraph 4 above might require, in order to be valid, the Suspension of the Rules, the intention of the Commission to render an Opinion in the said terms was duly advertised in 1936 in two or more of the zoological journals named in the Resolution adopted by the Ninth International Zoological Congress held at Monaco in March, 1913, by which the International Congress conferred upon the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature Plenary Power to suspend the Rules as applied

to any given case where in the opinion of the Commission the strict application of the Rules would clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity.

7. In the period which has elapsed since the announcement in the said zoological journals of the proposed Suspension of the Rules in the manner indicated, no communication of any kind has been addressed to the International Commission objecting to the issue of an Opinion in the terms proposed.

8. The Opinion as set out in the extract from the Commission's Report quoted in paragraph 4 above was concurred in by the twelve (12) Commissioners and Alternates present at the Lisbon Meeting of the International Commission, namely :—

Commissioners :—Calman; Hemming; Jordan; Pellegrin; Peters; and Stejneger.

Alternates :—do Amaral *vice* Cabrera; Oshima *vice* Esaki; Bradley *vice* Stone; Beier *vice* Handlirsch; Arndt *vice* Richter; and Mortensen *vice* Apstein.

9. The Opinion referred to above was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate.

10. The following five (5) Commissioners who were neither present at the Lisbon Meeting of the International Commission nor were represented thereat by Alternates did not vote on the above Opinion :—Bolivar y Pieltain; Chapman; Fantham; Silvestri; and Stiles.

#### IV.—AUTHORITY FOR THE ISSUE OF THE PRESENT OPINION.

WHEREAS the Sixth International Zoological Congress at its Meeting held in Monaco in March, 1913, adopted a Resolution conferring upon the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, acting for the International Zoological Congress, Plenary Power to suspend the Rules as applied to any given case, where, in the judgment of the Commission, the strict application of the said Rules would clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity, provided that not less than one year's notice of the possible Suspension of the Rules as applied to the said case should be given in two or more of five journals named in the said Resolution, and provided that the vote in the Commission was unanimously in favour of the proposed Suspension of the Rules; and

WHEREAS it might be held that the present Opinion might require, in order to be valid, the Suspension of the Rules; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide for the said contingency, not less than one year's notice of the possible Suspension of the Rules as applied to the present case has been given in two or more of the journals referred to in the said Resolution adopted by the Sixth International Congress at its Meeting held in Monaco in March, 1913; and

WHEREAS the vote in the Commission at their Lisbon Meeting was unanimously in favour of the issue of an Opinion in the terms of the present Opinion;

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, FRANCIS HEMMING, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, acting in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon me by reason of holding the said Office of Secretary to the International Commission, hereby announce the said Opinion on behalf of the International Commission, acting for the International Zoological Congress, and direct that it be rendered and printed as Opinion Number One Hundred and Thirty-Five (Opinion 135) of the said Commission.

In faith whereof, I, the undersigned FRANCIS HEMMING, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, have signed the present Opinion.

DONE in London, this thirtieth day of June, Nineteen Hundred and Thirty-Nine, in a single copy, which shall remain deposited in the archives of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature.*

FRANCIS HEMMING