

# OPINIONS RENDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

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## **OPINION 140**

On the method of forming the family names  
for *Merops* Linnaeus, 1758 (Aves) and for  
*Merope* Newman, 1838 (Insecta)

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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\* This vacancy was caused by the death on 23rd May, 1939, of Dr. Witmer STONE (U.S.A.).

† This vacancy was caused by the death on 24th January, 1941, of Dr. Charles Wardell STILES (U.S.A.), *Vice-President of the Commission* and former Secretary to the Commission (1897-1935).



## OPINION 140.

### ON THE METHOD OF FORMING THE FAMILY NAMES FOR *MEROPS* LINNAEUS, 1758 (AVES) AND FOR *MEROPE* NEWMAN 1838 (INSECTA).

**SUMMARY.**—The family name for *Merops* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) : 117) in Aves is MEROPIDAE; the family name for *Merope* Newman, 1838 (*Ent. Mag.* 5 (2) : 180) in Insecta is MEROPEIDAE.

#### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

This question was first raised by the International Committee on Entomological Nomenclature at its meeting held in Paris in 1932. At this meeting the International Committee adopted the following resolution :—

Le nom grec *μεροπη* du genre d'insecte se terminant en *Eta*, le nom de la famille de ces insectes sera MEROPEIDAE, nom différant suffisamment de MEROPIDAE (dérivé de *Merops, opis*)

2. This resolution was submitted by the International Committee on Entomological Nomenclature to Section VIII (Section on Nomenclature) of the Fifth International Congress of Entomology, by whom it was unanimously approved. Finally, this resolution was adopted by the Fifth International Congress of Entomology in Concilium Plenum on the presentation of the Report of the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Congress.

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

3. This subject was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the second meeting of the Session held in Lisbon in September 1935 during the meeting of the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology. At this meeting, which was held on the morning of 16th September 1935, the International Commission agreed (Lisbon Session, 2nd Meeting, Conclusion 14) :—

to render an Opinion declaring :—

- (i) that the family name for the genus *Merops* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) : 117) in the Aves is MERO-PIDAE; and
- (ii) that the family name for the genus *Merope* Newman, 1838 (*Ent. Mag.* 5 (2) : 180) in the Insecta is MERO-PEIDAE.

4. The foregoing decision was embodied in paragraph 22 of the Report which at their meeting held on the morning of Wednesday, 18th September 1935, the Commission (Lisbon Session, 5th Meeting, Conclusion 6) unanimously agreed to submit to the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology. This Report was unanimously approved by the Section on Nomenclature at its joint meeting with the International Commission held on the afternoon of the same day. It was thereupon submitted to the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology 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.

5. The Opinion set out in paragraph 3 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; Ohshima *vice* Esaki; Bradley *vice* Stone; Beier *vice* Handlirsch; Arndt *vice* Richter; and Mortensen *vice* Apstein.

6. The present Opinion was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate at the Lisbon Meeting. Nor since that Meeting has any Commissioner who was not present on that occasion indicated disagreement with the conclusions then reached by the Commission in this matter.

7. 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 present Opinion :—

Bolivar y Pieltain; Chapman; Fantham; Silvestri; and Stiles.

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

WHEREAS the By-Laws of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature provide that, except in cases involving the Suspension of the Rules, an Opinion is to be deemed to have been adopted by the said International Commission as soon as a majority of the Members of the Commission, that is to say ten (10) Members of the said Commission, have recorded their votes in favour thereof, provided that, where any proposed Opinion involves a reversal of any former Opinion rendered by the Commission, such proposed Opinion shall obtain the concurrence of at least fourteen (14) Members of the Commission voting on the same before such Opinion is to be deemed to have been adopted by the Commission; and

WHEREAS the present Opinion neither requires, to be valid, the Suspension of the Rules, nor involves a reversal of any former Opinion rendered by the Commission; and

WHEREAS twelve (12) Members of the Commission have signified their concurrence in the present Opinion either in person or through Alternates at the Meeting of the Commission held in Lisbon in September 1935 :

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 Congress of Zoology, and direct that it be rendered and printed as Opinion Number One Hundred and Forty (Opinion 140) 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 twenty-fourth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Forty Two, 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

## NOTICES.

The undermentioned publications of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature are obtainable at the Publications Office of the Commission, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. 7 :—

- OPINION 134. On the method to be adopted in interpreting the generic names assigned by Freyer to species described in his *Neuere Beiträge zur Schmetterlingskunde*, 1833–1858 . price 8*d.*
- OPINION 135. The suppression of the so-called "Erlangen List" of 1801 . price 8*d.*
- OPINION 136. Opinion supplementary to Opinion 11 on the interpretation of Latreille's *Considérations sur l'ordre naturel des animaux composant les classes des Crustacés, des Arachnides et des Insectes avec un tableau méthodique de leurs genres disposés en familles*, Paris, 1810 . price 1*s.* 0*d.*
- OPINION 137. On the relative precedence to be accorded to certain generic names published in 1807 by Fabricius and Hübner respectively for identical genera in the Lepidoptera Rhopalocera . . . price 1*s.* 6*d.*
- OPINION 138. On the method by which the amendment to Article 25 of the International Code adopted by the Budapest Meeting of the International Zoological Congress, relating to the replacement of invalid names, should be interpreted . . . price 1*s.* 6*d.*
- OPINION 139. The name *Cephus* Latreille, [1802–1803] and *Astata* Latreille, 1796, in the Hymenoptera added to the Official List of Generic Names . price 2*s.* 6*d.*

OPINION 140. On the method of forming the family names for *Merops* Linnaeus, 1758 (Aves) and for *Merope* Newman, 1838 (Insecta) price 2s. *od.*

OPINION 141. On the principles to be observed in interpreting Article 4 of the International Code relating to the naming of families and sub-families . . . . . price 2s. *6d.*

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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 the late 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 in the *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*. Unfortunately, all except a few of the later of the above Opinions are now out of print, and are therefore not 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*.