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**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

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Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 147

On the principles to be observed in interpreting Article 34 of the International Code in relation to the rejection, as homonyms, of generic and subgeneric names of the same origin and meaning as names previously published

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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 147

ON THE PRINCIPLES TO BE OBSERVED IN INTERPRETING ARTICLE 34 OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE IN RELATION TO THE REJECTION, AS HOMONYMS, OF GENERIC AND SUBGENERIC NAMES OF THE SAME ORIGIN AND MEANING AS NAMES PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED.

SUMMARY.—The following principles are to be observed in interpreting Article 34 of the International Code relating to the rejection, as homonyms, of generic and subgeneric names of the same origin and meaning :—

- (1) a generic name of the same origin and meaning as a previously published generic name is to be rejected as a homonym of the said name if it is distinguished therefrom only by the following differences :—
 - (a) the use of “ ae ”, “ oe ”, and “ e ” ; the use of “ ei ”, “ i ”, and “ y ” ; or the use of “ c ” and “ k ” ;
 - (b) the aspiration or non-aspiration of a consonant ;
 - (c) the presence or absence of a “ c ” before a “ t ” ;
 - (d) the use of a single or double consonant ;
- (2) the principles set out in (1) above in regard to generic names apply equally to subgeneric names.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

This question was first brought forward by Commissioner Francis Hemming, who in 1935 submitted the following statement thereon to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at their Session held at Lisbon during the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology :—

On the conditions in which generic (and subgeneric) names should be rejected as homonyms of earlier generic (and subgeneric) names of the same origin and meaning

In preparing my *Generic Names of the Holarctic Butterflies* (published last year¹) I was seriously embarrassed on a number of occasions by the fact that the International Code does not contain any express definition of

¹ This work was published by the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History) on 28th July 1934.

the term "homonym" in relation to the rejection, as homonyms, of generic and subgeneric names of the same origin and meaning (Article 34), although there is such a definition in relation to specific and subspecific names in Article 35.

The definition given in Article 35 reads as follows:—

"Specific names of the same origin and meaning shall be considered homonyms if they are distinguished from each other only by the following differences:

- (a) the use of 'ae', 'oe', and 'e', as *caeruleus*, *coeruleus*, *ceruleus*; 'ei', 'i' and 'y', as *chiropus*, *cheiropus*; 'c' and 'k' as *microdon*, *mikrodon*.
- (b) the aspiration or non-aspiration of a consonant, as *oxyruncus*, *oxyrhynchus*.
- (c) the presence or absence of a 'c' before 't', as *autumnalis*, *auctumnalis*.
- (d) by a single or double consonant; *litoralis*, *littoralis*.
- (e) by the endings 'ensis' and 'iensis' to a geographical name, as *timorensis*, *timoriensis*."

I have always assumed that the fact that the above provision was inserted in Article 35 (specific and subspecific names) without any corresponding provision being inserted in Article 34 (generic and subgeneric names) was due to the fact that, when at Graz in 1910 the passage quoted above was added to Article 35 by the Eighth International Congress of Zoology, on the recommendation of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, both bodies were addressing themselves only to the problem as it arose in connection with specific (and subspecific) names and did not consider it necessary on that occasion to carry through to their logical conclusion, as regards generic (and subgeneric) names, the decision then taken in regard to specific (and subspecific) names. I have therefore proceeded on the assumption that *mutatis mutandis* the Graz decision in regard to Article 35 must be held to apply equally to Article 34.

I am particularly glad therefore to find confirmation of the correctness of this view in the discussion in the draft *Opinion*² now before the Commission in regard to the name *Urothoe* Dana, where the principle of analogy is invoked in favour of the proposition that a principle laid down in the Code in relation to the types of genera (Article 30) should, in the absence of express provision to the contrary, be held to apply also to the types of families (Article 4).³

In view, however, of the doubt entertained in some quarters as to the correct course to be followed in determining whether a given generic name should or should not be deemed to be a homonym of a previously published generic name that is similar but not identical therewith, I consider it very important that the Commission should now give an express ruling on this subject. No new question of principle is involved, since all that is required to settle this question is that the Commission should agree to render an *Opinion* applying to generic (and subgeneric) names in relation to Article 34 the principles already expressly laid down in the Code (Article 35) in relation to specific names, so far as those principles are applicable to nouns (which all generic (and subgeneric) names must be (Article 8)).

I accordingly invite the Commission to agree to apply to generic names the first four of the principles (principles (a) to (d)) laid down in relation to specific names in the concluding portion of Article 35 of the Code, but to exclude the fifth of those principles (principle (e)), since that principle, being applicable only to specific names of adjectival form, is wholly inapplicable to nouns and therefore to generic names.

² See *Opinion* 133.

³ See *Opinion* 141.

II.—THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION.

2. This question was considered by the International Commission at their meeting held at Lisbon on Tuesday, 17th September 1935, when in the course of discussion it was explained that the Commission had hitherto held the view that it would naturally be concluded by zoologists that the principles laid down for specific names in this matter applied also to generic names. In view, however, of the fact that it was now clear that the present position was liable to give rise to misunderstandings, the Commission agreed (Lisbon Session, 4th Meeting, Conclusion 14) :—

to render an *Opinion* making it clear that the principles lettered (a) to (d) in Article 35 of the International Code for determining whether a given specific (or subspecific) name is a homonym of another specific (or subspecific) name of earlier date that is of the same origin and meaning, apply equally to the determination under Article 34 of the question whether a given generic (or subgeneric) name is a homonym of another generic (or subgeneric) name of earlier date, where the two generic (or subgeneric) names are of the same origin and meaning.

3. At the same meeting as that at which the foregoing decision was taken (Lisbon Session, 4th Meeting, Conclusion 17), Commissioner Francis Hemming, who, in the absence through ill-health of Dr. C. W. Stiles, Secretary to the Commission, had been charged with the duty of preparing the report to be submitted by the Commission to the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology, reported that, in accordance with the request made by the Commission on the previous day (Lisbon Session, 3rd Meeting, Conclusion 3 (b)), he had made a start with the drafting of the Commission's report; that he had made considerable progress in spite of being hampered by the lack of standard works of reference; and that he did not doubt that he would be in a position to lay a draft report before the Commission at their next meeting, though in the time available it would be quite impracticable to prepare the drafts of paragraphs relating to all the matters on which decisions had been reached during the Lisbon Session of the Commission. As agreed upon at the meeting referred to above (Lisbon Session, 3rd Meeting, Conclusion 3 (a) (iii)), he was therefore concentrating upon those matters that appeared to be the more important. Commissioner Hemming proposed that those

matters which it was found impossible to include in the report, owing to the shortness of the time available, should be dealt with after the Congress on the basis of the records in the *Official Record of the Proceedings of the Commission* during their Lisbon Session. For this purpose, Commissioner Hemming proposed that all matters unanimously agreed upon during the Lisbon Session should be treated in the same manner, whether or not it was found possible to include references to them in the report to be submitted to the Congress, and therefore that every such decision should be treated as having been participated in by all the Commissioners and Alternates present at Lisbon. The Commission took note of, and approved, the statement by Commissioner Hemming, and adopted the proposals submitted by him, as recorded above, in regard to the selection of items to be included in their report to the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology and to the procedure to be adopted after the Congress in regard to those matters with which, for the reasons explained, it was found impossible to deal in that report.

4. The question dealt with in the present *Opinion* was one of the matters to which it was found impossible, in the time available, to include a reference in the report submitted by the Commission to the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology at Lisbon. It is therefore one of the matters which falls to be dealt with under the procedure agreed upon by the Commission as set out in paragraph 3 above.

5. The present *Opinion* was concurred in by the twelve (12) Commissioners and Alternates present at the Lisbon Session 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 Session. The following five (5) Commissioners who were not present at Lisbon nor 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 provided 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*, as set out in the summary thereof, neither requires, in order 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 Session 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 Seven (*Opinion* 147) 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 tenth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Forty Three, 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

PUBLICATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

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Opinions Published by the Commission

- OPINION 134. On the method to be adopted in interpreting the generic names assigned by Freyer to the species described in his *Neuere Beiträge zur Schmetterlingskunde*, 1833–1858 price 8*d.*
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- OPINION 148. On the principles to be observed in interpreting Articles 25 and 34 of the International Code in relation to the availability of generic names proposed as emendations of, or as substitutes for, earlier generic names of the same origin and meaning.
- OPINION 149. Twenty-one names in the Orthoptera (Insecta) added to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.
- OPINION 150. On the dates of publication of the several portions of Hübner (J.), *Verzeichniss bekannter Schmettlinge* [sic], 1816–[1826].
- OPINION 151. On the status of the names *Lasius* Panzer, [1801–1802], *Podalirius* Latreille, 1802, *Lasius* Fabricius, * [1804–1805] and *Anthophora* Latreille, 1803 (Insecta, Hymenoptera).
- OPINION 152. On the status of the generic names in the Order Diptera (Insecta) first published in 1800 by J. W. Meigen in his *Nouvelle Classification des Mouches à deux ailes*.
- OPINION 153. On the status of the names *Bethylus* Latreille, [1802–1803], and *Dryinus* Latreille, [1804] (Insecta, Hymenoptera).
- OPINION 154. On the status of the names *Phaneroptera* Serville, 1831, and *Tylopsis* Fieber, 1853 (Insecta, Orthoptera).
- OPINION 155. On the status of the names *Callimome* Spinola, 1811, *Misocampe* Latreille, 1818, and *Torymus* Dalman, 1820 (Insecta, Hymenoptera).
- OPINION 156. Suspension of the rules for *Vanessa* Fabricius, 1807 (Insecta, Lepidoptera).
- OPINION 157. Three names in the Hymenoptera (Insecta) added to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.
- OPINION 158. On the status of the name *Locusta* Linnaeus, 1758 (Insecta, Orthoptera).

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AN URGENT APPEAL FOR A FUND OF £1800 TO ENABLE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO CONTINUE ITS WORK

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature urgently appeal for grants to the above Fund to Museums, Research Institutes and other Institutions concerned with any branch of zoology ; to Learned Societies and Associations concerned with any aspect of zoology ; to Institutions and Learned Societies in the fields of Agriculture, Horticulture, Medicine and Veterinary Science, all of whom have a direct interest in that portion of the work of the Commission which is concerned with the stabilisation of Zoological Nomenclature ; to University and other Departments engaged in the teaching of zoology as being directly interested to secure stability in the scientific nomenclature used in biological text-books ; and to every individual zoologist who may be in a position to contribute to the funds of the Commission. Full particulars of the purposes for which the above Fund is required are given in Part 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

Contributions of any amount, however small, will be most gratefully received. They should be addressed to the Commission at their Publications Office, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. Bankers' drafts, cheques, and Postal Orders, should be made payable to the " International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature " and crossed " Account payee. Coutts & Co.".