

A Study in Orthography.

By G. H. Verrall in Newmarket.

In the year 1840, Rondani, in his „Memoria seconda per servire alla Ditterologia Italiana“, entitled „Sopra alcuni nuovi Generi“, founded on pages 12 and 16 a new genus in the *Cecidomyidae* which he called

Ozirhincus

possibly from ὀζῆ ῥύγχος = stinking snout, but more probably Rondani mistook ξ for ζ and intended to derive his name from ὀξύς ῥύγχος = sharp snout, his chief character for the genus being „Proboscis longa, perpendicularis, basi lata, apice mucronata“; at any rate Loew in 1845 (Dipt. Beitr. I 11) called the genus

Oxyrhynchus

and one year later (1846) the latter derivation appeared in Agassiz' Nom. Zool. Dipt. 28.

Rondani however after having seen Loew's paper published in 1845, spelled his genus in Ann. Sc. Nat. Bologn. (2) VI. 372 (1846)

Ozirhyncus

yielding one letter to correction; but on page 375 reverted to his former *Ozirhincus*. Still Loew in Dipt. Beitr. IV. 21 (1850) stuck to his derivation, only by a *lapsus calami* he once put on page 21

Oxyrynchus

and because the name *Oxyrhynchus* was preoccupied by Schönherr in 1826 (*Coleoptera*) he renamed the genus *Clinorhyncha*.

In 1854, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. (3) II, 461, Bigot with his habitual disregard of the simplest orthography referred to the genus as

Ozirhynchus.

Next in 1856 Rondani in Dipt. Ital. Prodr. I. 200 appeared to yield to Loew, but by another *lapsus calami* he put

Oxyrhyncus.

The same year the genus was dealt with in a „General Index“ of genera at the beginning of Walker's Vol. III of Ins. Brit. Dipt.; I believe this list was compiled by Haliday

who was usually exceedingly accurate but here he quoted the genus, perhaps from Bigot, as *Ozirhynchus* which he amended into

Oxyrrhynchus.

In 1861 in Dipt. Ital. Prodr. IV. 8 Rondani retracted his apparent concession of 1856 (*Oxyrhyncus*), and replaced *Ozirhyncus*, which two names he unfortunately indexed on page 171, as

Oxyrhincus and Ozyrhyncus.

In the same year in Att. Soc. Ital. Milano, II, he gave up his generic name as being too similar to the Coleopterous genus, but still contending that his genus which he called *Ozirhynchus* on page 288, *Ozyrhyncus* on page 294 and

Ozyrhinchus on page 291 was distinct from Loew's genus *Clinorhyncha*, he renamed it on page 291

Acorhynchus presumably from ἀκή ρύγχος, but on page 288 he mentioned the genus as

Acyrhynchus.

The old name was not by any means done with yet, for in 1864 Lioy in Atti Ist. Venet. (3), IX. 501 referred to it as

Oxyrincus and Schiner in his „Novara Reise“, page 3 (1868) as

Oziorhincus.

After this the poor genus had a six years rest, reappearing in Walker's Notes on Diptera 14 (1874) as

Oziorhynchus then (*inter alia*) in Scudder's Nom. Zool. I. 4 (1882) appears as

Achorhynchus!

with a derivation ὤζυς! ρύγχος! neither of which words occur in my Greek Lexicon, nor do I see how ὤζυς, whatever it may be, could produce Acho-; I presume ὤζυς and ρύγχος were intended, as from the Greek ὤζυς comes the Latin *acus*; on page 5 appeared

Acorrhyrchus

with my own name given for the reference; I have never seen this word in print before, but it did occur in an old manu-

script list of mine as a possible emendation of *Acorhynchus*; further I am credited on page 240 with

Oxirhynchus

which I think must occur somewhere, as my old list has it marked off as seen, but no reference is given; and lastly on page 241 is

Oziorhynchus

also from my old list. This list was incomplete and never intended for publication until thoroughly tested, and when I sent it to Scudder I had no idea that every error would be incorporated in his list, hence many incorrect names are referred to me which I should never have published myself. I have no doubt this last name was an incorrect copying from of Schiner's *Oziorhincus*.

After all these changes the genus can probably be buried in oblivion as only a synonym of *Clinorrhyncha* Loew.

Even *Clinorrhyncha* has had numerous changes; started as

Clinorhyncha

by Loew in Dipt. Beitr. IV, 21 (1850), and emended by himself to

Clinorrhyncha

in Nat. Hist. Rev. III. 79 (1856); it become

Clinorhynca

and

Ceinorhynca

and

Chinorhyncha

by Rondani in Att. Soc. Ital. Milano, II. 291 (1861); then in Scudder's Nomenclator came

Chinorrhynca

in Part I. 70 (1882), and

Clinorrhynca

on page 77, not communicated by me, as I possess my original MS on which it is correctly spelt; lastly in Scudder's Nomenclator Part II. 64 (1884) I find

Chinorhynca.



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