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A NOTE ON SOME MALLOPHAGAN NAMES.

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I. NITZSCH'S NOMINA NUDA AND MANUSCRIPT NAMES.

IN 1818 Nitzsch published a number of specific names of Mallophaga giving the hosts but no descriptions,¹ and when he died in 1837 he left a manuscript containing the descriptions and names of a large number of species; both these nomina nuda and manuscript names have led to endless confusion in the nomenclature of the Mallophaga. Burmeister, working on the Nitzsch collection, published (1838) his own descriptions of a number of species using these Nitzschian names, and Denny (1842) also applied many of the names to this species attributing them to Nitzsch. Giebel, who had access both to Nitzsch's collection and manuscript, proceeded to publish from 1861 onwards Nitzsch's specific descriptions, giving the Latin diagnosis taken from the Nitzsch manuscript and also, in certain cases, adding a German description of his own. Giebel thus published the descriptions of all the species which had in the meantime been described by Burmeister, Denny, and other authors, attributing them to Nitzsch. This has caused complications both as to the date and author of the name and to the interpretation of the species. Also in some cases Burmeister, in describing a species in the Nitzsch collection, had used a different name from that found in the Nitzsch manuscript, e.g. *Nirmus sellatus* Burmeister 1838 and *Nirmus selliger* Nitzsch 1866, both with the same type specimens. Again in some cases authors had applied a Nitzschian name to what was obviously a different species from that meant by Nitzsch, e.g. *Nirmus cameratus* de Haan 1829. In order to obviate the difficulties and confusion which may arise it is necessary to adhere strictly to the law of priority. Thus any author who described a species for which he used a nomen nudum contained in Nitzsch's 1818 list or a name taken from the Nitzsch manuscript, and published prior to Giebel's publication of the Nitzsch manuscript, must be considered as the sole author² and his interpretation and spelling must stand. Names and descriptions taken from the Nitzsch manuscript and published for the first time by Giebel should stand under the authorship of Nitzsch.

Additional complications arise in the case of Lyonet's descriptions, since in his unpublished manuscript he described several species, but referred to them by

¹ This does not apply to names with which there is a reference to an earlier description and figure as in the case of *Nirmus minutus* (1818, p. 281); such names must date from 1818.

² It is unfortunate that Dr. S. Kéler, who is working on the Nitzsch collection, does not conform to this rule and thus reduces the value of much of his excellent work.

French names only. In 1829 de Haan published these descriptions, and in addition applied Nitzschian nomina nuda to Lyonet's species. In this case, therefore, de Haan must be considered as the author and the synonymy of such species should run as follows :

COLPOCEPHALUM FLAVESCENS de Haan 1829.

Colpocephalum flavescens Nitzsch, 1818, p. 298 (nom. nud.).

Pou d'aigle, Lyonet, 1829, p. 262, pl. iv, fig. 1.

Liotheum (Colpocephalum) flavescens de Haan, 1829, p. 309, pl. iv, fig. 1.

II. *ESTHIOPTERUM* HARRISON 1916 OR *ESTHIOPTERELLA* HARRISON 1937.

The genus *Lipeurus* Nitzsch 1818, as originally described, contained a large and heterogeneous collection of species. In 1916 Harrison restricted the genus to a group of species found mainly on gallinaceous hosts. The residue was placed in a new genus, *Esthiopterum*, with *E. ebraeum* (Burmeister) 1838 as a genotype. Harrison, however, included in his list of species of *Esthiopterum* the genotype of the genus *Pseudonirmus* Mjöberg 1910 which he did not at that time consider a valid genus. Harrison (1937, posthumous publication) argues that as the genotype of *Pseudonirmus* was included in his genus *Esthiopterum*, this latter genus is a synonym of *Pseudonirmus* and therefore proposes the new name *Esthiopterella* for *Esthiopterum*. As the two genotypes of *Pseudonirmus* and *Esthiopterum* are quite distinct and obviously belong to different genera, it is unnecessary to discard the name *Esthiopterum*. For this opinion I am indebted to Dr. Karl Jordan.

III. GENERA IN HARRISON'S POSTHUMOUS PUBLICATION.

After Harrison's death in 1928 selections from his manuscript were published by G. B. Thompson in a series of papers in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*.¹

Recently (1937) a posthumous paper by Harrison has appeared containing the majority of genera and subgenera which had already been published under Thompson's name, the descriptions being identical in the two cases. Since Thompson's descriptions were taken from Harrison's manuscript, the names must stand under the authorship of Harrison with the date as published by Thompson. Below are given a list of these genera and subgenera :

Genera. *Episbates* Harrison 1935.

Perineus Harrison 1936.

Halipeurus Harrison 1936.

Subgenera. *Epiplecanus* Harrison 1935.

Philichthyophaga Harrison 1935.

Epifregata Harrison 1935.

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¹ Thompson, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 10, vol. xv, p. 555, 1935 ; vol. xvi, pp. 148 and 485, 1935 ; vol. xviii, p. 40, 1936 ; vol. xx, p. 538, 1937.

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