

**FIRST REPORT ON MATTERS LEFT UNSETTLED  
IN "OPINION" 124, IN RELATION TO THE STATUS OF  
THE TERMS USED BY LINNAEUS IN 1758 TO DENOTE  
SUBDIVISIONS OF GENERA ESTABLISHED IN THE  
10TH EDITION OF THE "SYSTEMA NATURAE"**

**The subdivisions of the genus "Gryllus" Linnaeus, 1758  
(Class Insecta, Order Orthoptera)**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.  
(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)328)**

1. At its meeting held in Paris in 1948 the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature placed on record their disapproval of the practice sometimes adopted in the past, under which the decision given in an *Opinion* dealt with part only of the issues involved, and agreed to invite the Secretary to the Commission (a) to examine all the *Opinions* so far rendered, with a view to ascertaining every instance where an application had been dealt with incompletely and (b) to submit proposals as soon as possible for the rendering, as a matter of urgency, of supplementary *Opinions* dealing with the questions left unanswered in the earlier *Opinions* concerned (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 355). This decision was endorsed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **5** : 104-105).

2. *Opinion* 124 provides a conspicuous example of the class of case covered by the foregoing decision, for that *Opinion* lays down a general principle applicable to all the terms used by Linnaeus to denote subdivisions of genera, but discusses the effect of that decision in relation to one only of the genera concerned (*Gryllus* Linnaeus, 1758) and, even in that case, in relation to one only of the six terms used by Linnaeus to denote subdivisions of that genus. The submission by Dr. Ashley B. Gurney of proposals relating to two other of the terms used by Linnaeus to denote subdivisions of the genus *Gryllus* provides a convenient opportunity for placing before the Commission proposals for such further action as is necessary in order to fill in all the gaps in *Opinion* 124, in so far as that *Opinion* is concerned with the status to be accorded to the terms used by Linnaeus in 1758 to denote subdivisions of the foregoing genus. I accordingly decided to devote to this subject the first of the Reports which, under the decision of the International Congress of Zoology quoted in paragraph 1 above, I have been asked to prepare in regard to matters left unsettled by *Opinion* 124. This Report I now submit for consideration by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. Further Reports dealing with terms used by Linnaeus in 1758 to denote subdivisions of genera, other than *Gryllus* Linnaeus, will be submitted, as and when opportunity offers.

3. *Arrangement of Report* : In the present Report, I deal, in turn, with each of the six terms used by Linnaeus in 1758 to denote subdivisions of the genus *Gryllus*. In each case I indicate such action, if any, as has already been



taken by the Commission in regard thereto and refer to the proposals in regard to certain of those terms which have been submitted to the Commission by Dr. Ashley B. Gurney. Where necessary, I indicate such further consequential action as is necessary, in order completely to dispose of the cases concerned.

4. *The term Mantis as used by Linnaeus*: At Lisbon in 1935 the International Commission decided to place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Mantis* Linnaeus as from 1767, that being the date on which this name was first validly used as a generic name, its use on that occasion being acceptable to specialists as it was in accordance with current nomenclatorial practice. By this decision therefore the Commission decided also that there were no grounds for the use of the plenary powers for the purpose of validating the name *Mantis* as from Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1: 425). All therefore that is now required in this connection is that the reputed but non-existent generic name *Mantis* Linnaeus, 1758, should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*. It should be noted that some authors have suggested that the name *Mantis* Linnaeus, 1767, is ante-dated by the name *Mantes* Geoffroy, 1762 (*Hist. abrég. Ins. Paris* 1: 399), but this is not correct, for the Commission has decided that, in the work quoted, Geoffroy did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature and therefore that no name published therein acquires availability in zoological nomenclature on that account (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 366-369). It would be well, however, finally to dispose of this matter by placing the reputed but non-existent generic name *Mantes* Geoffroy on the *Official Index*. Finally, it is necessary at this point to refer to the decision taken by the International Congress of Zoology in 1948 that the trivial names of the type species of genera placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* should, when they are the oldest available names for the species concerned, be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*; this decision is retrospective and will therefore in any case apply in the present instance when the foregoing *Official List* comes to be compiled. It will be convenient, however, to take the present opportunity to deal with this matter by placing on the *Official List* the trivial name *religiosus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1: 426 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus religiosus*), that being the trivial name of the type species of *Mantis* Linnaeus, 1767.

5. *The term Acrida as used by Linnaeus*: Dr. Gurney's proposal (that *Acrida* should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with status as from Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1: 427), and with *Gryllus turritus* Linnaeus, 1758, as type species) covers all the principal matters which call for action in this case. It should be noted, however, that, since at present the term *Acrida* possesses no status as a subgeneric name as from Linnaeus, 1758, it follows automatically that there is at present no nominal genus (or subgenus) *Acrida* Linnaeus, 1758, and consequently that, if (as proposed by Dr. Gurney) the plenary powers are used to bring into existence the subgeneric name *Acrida* Linnaeus, 1758, the same powers will need to be used to provide that newly created nominal subgenus with a type species. Further, for the reasons explained (in paragraph 4) in connection with the generic name *Mantis* Linnaeus, 1767, it will be necessary to place on the *Official List of Specific*



*Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *turritus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus turritus*), the trivial name of the species proposed by Dr. Gurney to be designated as the type species of this genus.

6. *The term Bulla as used by Linnaeus* : The International Commission, in *Opinion* 124, pointed out that, even if Linnaeus had in 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 427) published the name *Bulla* as the name of a subgenus of *Gryllus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta), that name, being a subgeneric name, would have fallen (under a rule then recommended by the Commission to the Congress) as a homonym of the Gastropod name *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 725), the latter name having been published as a generic name and accordingly, being of the same date, possessing priority over its homonym published as a subgeneric name. The Gastropod name *Bulla* Linnaeus has now been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 305) ; all that is called for therefore to complete the action required in the present case is to place the reputed but non-existent name *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (in the Class Insecta) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

7. *The term Acheta as used by Linnaeus* : Dr. Gurney has explained in the first of the footnotes to his application that, while in the past some authors have treated *Acheta* as having acquired subgeneric status as from Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 428), others have used this name as published by Fabricius in 1775 (*Syst. Ent.* : 279-282, 826), when it was employed in a strictly binominal sense. It was there used by Fabricius for ten species, of which the second was *Gryllus domesticus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 428). This species was selected as the type species by Curtis in 1830 (*Brit. Ent.* 7 : 293), and this generic name is currently used in this sense. As, under *Opinion* 124, the name *Acheta* has no standing as a subgeneric name as from Linnaeus, 1758, and as Fabricius (1775) was the first author to use the word *Acheta* as a generic or subgeneric name, the name *Acheta* Fabricius, 1775, is an available name. Further, as its type species under the *Règles* (*Gryllus domesticus* Linnaeus, 1758) is the species currently accepted as such, there is no reason why the International Commission should use its plenary powers to validate the name *Acheta* as from Linnaeus, 1758, the present position by which that name ranks from Fabricius, 1775, being perfectly satisfactory. All that is required to make the position clear is (1) to place the generic name *Acheta* Fabricius, 1775, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* and the trivial name *domesticus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus domesticus*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, and (2) to place the reputed but non-existent subgeneric name *Acheta* Linnaeus, 1758, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*. Dr. Gurney and Dr. B. P. Uvarov, whom I have consulted, both support this proposal. Dr. Uvarov points out that his name *Gryllulus* (Uvarov, 1935, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (10) 16 : 320) is an objective synonym of *Acheta* Fabricius, 1775 ; it is accordingly proposed that that name should be added to the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names*.



8. *The term Tettigonia as used by Linnaeus* : Dr. Gurney and Dr. Uvarov (supported from the point of view of hemipterological literature by Dr. W. E. China and Mr. R. G. Fennah) recommend that the Commission should use its plenary powers to validate the name *Tettigonia* as of subgeneric status as from Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 429) ; Dr. Gurney and Dr. Uvarov further propose that the nominal species to be accepted as the type species of this genus should be *Gryllus viridissimus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 430). For the reasons already explained in the parallel case of *Acrida* Linnaeus, 1758 (paragraph 5 above), it will be necessary for the Commission to use its plenary powers for the latter, just as much as for the former, of these purposes. The only other action called for in connection with this name is (for the reasons explained in paragraph 4 above in connection with the name *Mantis*) to place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *viridissimus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus viridissimus*), that being the trivial name of the nominal species recommended by Dr. Gurney for recognition as the type species of *Tettigonia* Linnaeus, 1758.

9. *The reputed generic name Tetigonia Geoffroy, 1762* : The action proposed by Dr. Gurney and Dr. Uvarov will serve two valuable purposes, quite unconnected with one another : first, it will (as they desire) provide a legal foundation for the name *Tettigonia* as a generic name in the Order Orthoptera ; second, it will eliminate, as an invalid junior homonym (under the provision which is to replace (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 161-162) subsection (d) in the third paragraph of Article 35, as applied to Article 34), the confusingly similar name *Tetigonia* in the Order Hemiptera. The disappearance of this name is welcomed by both Dr. China and Mr. Fennah. It is desirable that the present opportunity should be taken to make the position clear by placing on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* both (1) the name *Tetigonia* Geoffroy, 1762, *Hist. abrég. Ins. Paris* 1 : 429 (which, quite apart from the application submitted by Dr. Gurney, is already an invalid name having been published in a work in which the author (Geoffroy) did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature—see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 366-369), (2) the name *Tettigonia* Fabricius, 1775, *Syst. Ent.* : 678 (which, pending the approval of Dr. Gurney's proposal, is an available name), (3) *Tetigonia* Fourcroy, 1785, *Ent. paris.* 1 : 193 (an invalid homonym of *Tettigonia* Fabricius, 1775), and (4) *Tetigonia* Blanchard, 1852, in Gay, *Hist. Chile* (Zool.) 7 : 282.

10. *Effect of eliminating the name Tetigonia from hemipterological literature* : Dr. China has pointed out that the final elimination of the name *Tetigonia* from the literature of the Order Hemiptera will be to restore to unquestioned availability the generic name *Ledra* Fabricius, 1803 (*Syst. Rhyngot.* : 24), and consequently also the family name LEDRIDAE. Dr. China, after examining and (rightly) rejecting the claim advanced by Kirkaldy that Fabricius had himself designated a type species for the genus *Ledra*, has reported (*in litt.*, 18th January 1949) that the first valid selection of a type species for this genus was that by Latreille in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 434) of *Cicada aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 435. In view of the uncertainty that has



existed regarding the status of the generic name *Ledra*, having regard to the competing (but now finally rejected) claims of *Tetigonia* Geoffroy, 1762, it is clearly desirable that the name *Ledra* Fabricius should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, with the above species as type species, the trivial name *aurita* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Cicada aurita*), the trivial name of that species, being at the same time placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

**11.** *The term Locusta as used by Linnaeus* : At Lisbon in 1935 the International Commission used its plenary powers (a) to validate the name *Locusta*, as from Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 431), and (b) to designate *Gryllus migratorius* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of that genus. This decision was later embodied in *Opinion* 158. The only supplementary action now required is (for the reasons explained in paragraph 4 above in connection with the name *Mantis*) to place the trivial name *migratorius* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 432) (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus migratorius*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* that *List* not having been in existence at the time when the Commission dealt with this name in 1935.

**12.** Having now reviewed (a) the action already taken by the International Commission in regard to the terms used by Linnaeus in 1758 to denote subdivisions of the genus *Gryllus* Linnaeus, and (b) the proposals in regard to two of those terms submitted by Dr. Ashley B. Gurney, and having submitted also certain supplementary recommendations on various matters either connected with the status to be accorded to the foregoing terms or arising incidentally in connection therewith, we may summarise as follows the proposals now laid before the International Commission. These are that the Commission should :—

- (1) use its plenary powers to validate, as of subgeneric status, the names specified in Column (1) below, those names to be treated as having been published by Linnaeus in 1758 on the pages of the 10th edition of the *Systema Naturae* there specified, and (b) to designate, as the type species of the nominal subgenera in question, the species severally specified in Column (2) below :—

<i>Name of subgenus</i>	<i>Nominal species designated as the type species of subgenus specified in Col. (1)</i>
(1)	(2)
<i>Acrida</i> Linnaeus, 1758, <i>Syst. Nat.</i> (ed. 10) 1 : 427	<i>Gryllus turritus</i> Linnaeus, 1758, <i>Syst. Nat.</i> (ed. 10) 1 : 427
<i>Tettigonia</i> Linnaeus, 1758, <i>Syst. Nat.</i> (ed. 10) 1 : 429	<i>Gryllus viridissimus</i> Linnaeus, 1758, <i>Syst. Nat.</i> (ed. 10) 1 : 430



- (2) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, with the type species severally specified below :—

- (a) *Acheta* Fabricius, 1775, *Syst. Ent.* : 279-282, 826 (type species, by subsequent selection by Curtis, 1830 (*Brit. Ent.* **7** : 293) : *Gryllus domesticus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 428).
- (b) *Acrida* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 427 (as proposed, under (1) above, to be validated under the plenary powers) (type species, by designation, as proposed in (1) above, under the plenary powers : *Gryllus turritus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 427).
- (c) *Ledra* Fabricius, 1803, *Syst. Rhyngot.* : 24 (type species, by subsequent selection by Latreille, 1810 (*Consid. gén. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 434) : *Cicada aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 435).
- (d) *Tettigonia* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 429 (as proposed, under (1) above, to be validated under the plenary powers) (type species by designation, as proposed in (1) above, under the plenary powers : *Gryllus viridissimus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 430) ;

- (3) place the undermentioned generic names and alleged generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Acheta* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 428 (a reputed but non-existent name).
- (b) *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 427 (a reputed but non-existent name).
- (c) *Gryllulus* Uvarov, 1935, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (10)**16** : 320 (an invalid junior synonym of *Acheta* Fabricius, 1775).
- (d) *Mantes* Geoffroy, 1762, *Hist. abrég. Ins. Paris* **1** : 399 (a name possessing no status because published by an author who did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature).
- (e) *Mantis* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 425 (a reputed but non-existent name).
- (f) *Tetigonia* Geoffroy, 1762, *Hist. abrég. Ins. Paris* **1** : 429 (a name possessing no status because published by an author who did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature).
- (g) *Tetigonia* Fourcroy, 1785, *Ent. paris.* **1** : 193 (an invalid junior homonym of *Tettigonia* Linnaeus, 1758, as proposed, under (1) above, to be validated under the plenary powers).
- (h) *Tetigonia* Blanchard, 1852, in Gay, *Hist. Chile* (Zool.) **7** : 282 (an invalid junior homonym of *Tettigonia* Linnaeus, 1758, as proposed, under (1) above, to be validated under the plenary powers).



- (i) *Tettigonia* Fabricius, 1775, *Syst. Ent.* : 678 (an invalid junior homonym of *Tettigonia* Linnaeus, 1758, as proposed, under (1) above, to be validated under the plenary powers) ;
- (4) place the undermentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *aurita* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Cicada aurita*) (trivial name of type species of *Ledra* Fabricius, 1803).
  - (b) *domesticus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus domesticus*) (trivial name of type species of *Acheta* Fabricius, 1775).
  - (c) *migratorius* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus migratorius*) (trivial name of type species of *Locusta* Linnaeus, 1758).
  - (d) *religiosus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus religiosus*) (trivial name of type species of *Mantis* Linnaeus, 1767).
  - (e) *turritus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus turritus*) (trivial name of species proposed, under (1) above, to be designated under the plenary powers as type species of *Acrida* Linnaeus, 1758).
  - (f) *viridissimus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Gryllus viridissimus*) (trivial name of species proposed, under (1) above, to be designated under the plenary powers as type species of *Tettigonia* Linnaeus, 1758).



Hemming, Francis. 1951. "First report on matters left unsettled in "Opinion" 124, in. relation to the status of the terms used by Lin-naeus in 1758 to denote subdivisions of genera established in the 10th edition of the "Systema Naturae". The subdivisions of." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 2, 112–118.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/43930>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/76201>

#### **Holding Institution**

Natural History Museum Library, London

#### **Sponsored by**

Natural History Museum Library, London

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.