

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO DESIGNATE TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENERA "NYSIUS" DALLAS, 1852, AND "ARTHENEIS" SPINOLA, 1837 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HEMIPTERA)

By R. L. USINGER (*United States Public Health Service*) and
R. I. SAILER (*United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)181)

China (1943, *The Generic Names of British Insects*, pt. 8 : 236), has shown that, under the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature the name *Nysius* Dallas, 1852 (*List Specimens Hem. Ins. Coll. Brit. Mus.* **2** : 551), is not applicable to the genus universally known under that name. Through an oversight China cited *Macroparius* Stål, 1872 (*Ofvers. Vetensk Akad. Förhandl.*, Stockholm **29** : 43), as the correct name instead of *Artheneis* Spinola, 1837 (*Ess. Ins. Hémipt.* : 250), which he listed as a synonym. In subsequent correspondence he agreed that the latter name must be employed for this genus of LYGAEIDAE. Unfortunately, this change would produce much confusion in literature of economic entomology since the name *Nysius* has become virtually synonymous with "false chinch bug" and "Rutherglen bug," two important pests of agricultural crops in Europe, North America, and Australia. It seems advisable, therefore, to request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to take appropriate action under suspension of the Rules in order to maintain *Nysius* for the genus of bugs to which it has long been applied.

The change to either *Macroparius* or *Artheneis* is not made necessary through any misconception of the groups involved but simply through two unfortunate type selections. Distant (1903), ignoring the carefully defined subgenera of Stål (1874, (*Enum. Hemipt.* **4** : 119-122,) and Horváth (1890, *Rev. Ent.* **9** : 185-191) considered the genus *Nysius* as a unit and selected *Nysius zealandicus* Dallas, 1852, as its type species. *N. zealandicus* has previously been set apart by Stål (in 1868 (*K. svensk. Vetensk Akad. Handl.*, Stockholm (n.f.) **7** (No. 11) : 76) in a monotypic subgenus, *Rhypodes*, and *Nysius* was used for the cosmopolitan group including *Lygaeus thymi* Wolff, 1804 (*Icon. Cimicum* (4) : 149) and its allies. This did not exclude *zealandicus* from consideration as the type species of *Nysius*, since Dallas included it as one of the original species. Distant continued to use the name *Nysius* for the false chinch bug and its allies until his death. However, Evans (1929) raised most of the subgenera, including *Rhypodes*, to full genera. This should have precipitated the matter, because the name *Nysius* should have been used in place of *Rhypodes*, and the next oldest synonym should have been selected for *Nysius* auct. nec Dallas. However, Distant's type selection was overlooked, and it remained for Dr. China to point out the nomenclatural inconsistency in 1943.

Meanwhile, Kirkaldy (1909) noted that, as Spinola himself had suggested, *Artheneis* Spinola, 1837 (a common European genus and the type of the subfamily ARTHENEINAE), actually comprised two genera. Instead of following general usage and selecting *Artheneis foveolata* Spinola, 1837 (*Ess. Ins. Hémipt.* : 253) as the type species of *Artheneis*, Kirkaldy cited "(type *eymoides*), = *Nysius*

Dallas, 1852" [sic], thus confusing the *Nysius* picture and necessitating a new name, *Tyrrheneis*, which he proposed (1909, *Canad. Ent.* **41** : 31) for *Artheneis* auct., nec Kirkaldy. It is not clear whether Kirkaldy intended to replace *Nysius* with *Artheneis* or not. He described many new species of *Nysius* in 1910 but the paper was published posthumously. We have seen no evidence in his published works or in his private collection to indicate that he contemplated a change in the name *Nysius*.

Oshanin (1912) ignored the earlier type fixations and selected type species designed to legalize current usage. Oshanin's type selections were accepted by Van Duzee in his "Check List" (1916) and "Catalogue" (1917) and have been generally, though incorrectly, accepted by hemipterists up to the present time.

Thus we are faced with a situation in which two authors selected type species which completely upset existing usage. The changes were entirely unnecessary and it seems clear that the authors had no intention of changing anything, because they failed to make the changes in their own subsequent work. Under the Rules their intentions are, of course, of no consequence, but considered in connection with the economic importance of the group and the universal acceptance of the names in current usage, it seems justifiable to consider action under suspension of the Rules which would permit retention of the name *Nysius* for the concept with which it has been universally associated.

We, therefore, respectfully recommend that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature exercise the plenary power conferred on it by the International Congress of Zoology and that the following actions be taken :

- (1) Reject Distant's (1903) selection of *Nysius zealandicus* Dallas, 1852, in favour of Oshanin's (1912) selection of *Lygaeus thymi* Wolff, 1804, as the type species of *Nysius* Dallas, 1852.
- (2) Reject Kirkaldy's (1909) selection of *Artheneis cymoides* Spinola, 1837, in favour of Oshanin's (1912) selection of *Artheneis foveolata* Spinola, 1837, as the type species of *Artheneis* Spinola, 1837.
- (3) Place the generic names *Nysius* Dallas, 1852, and *Artheneis* Spinola, 1837, with the respective type species specified above on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, together with the generic name *Rhyodes* Stål, 1868 (type species by monotypy : *Nysius zealandicus* Dallas, 1852).

Conclusions

Suppression of the Distant and Kirkaldy type selections will result in the following :

Nysius Dallas, 1852, type species *Lygaeus thymi* Wolff, 1804 = *Macroparius* Stål, 1872, type species *Heterogaster graminicola* Kolenati, 1846.

Rhyodes Stål, 1868, type species, *Nysius zealandicus* Dallas, 1852 = *Lygaeus clavicornis* Fabricius, 1794, (*Ent. syst.* **4** : 169) = (*Myersia* Evans, 1929 *Bull. ent. Res.* **19** : 353), type species *Lygaeus clavicornis* Fabricius, 1794.

Artheneis Spinola, 1837, type species, *Artheneis foveolata* Spinola, 1837 = *Tyrrheneis* Kirkaldy, 1900, type species *Artheneis foveolata* Spinola, 1837.



Usinger, Robert L. and Sailer, R. I. 1951. "Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate type species for the genera "Nysius" Dallas, 1852, and "Artheneis" Spinola, 1837 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera)." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 2, 313–314.

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

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/33479>

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>.