

NOMENCLATURE OF THE GENUS *NYSIUS* AND ITS ALLIES (Lygaeidae: Heteroptera)

By R. L. USINGER, *U. S. Public Health Service*, and R. I. SAILER, *U. S. Department of Agriculture*

Recently (China, *The Generic Names of British Insects*, pt. 8, p. 236, 1943) it has been shown that under the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature *Nysius* Dallas, 1852, is not applicable to the genus universally known under that name. Through an oversight China cited *Macroparius* Stål, 1872, as the correct name instead of *Artheneis* Spinola, 1837, which he listed as a synonym. In recent correspondence he has 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 genotype selections. Distant (1903), ignoring the carefully defined subgenera of Stål (*Enum. Hemipt.* 4: 119–122, 1874), and Horvath (*Rev. d'Ent.* 9: 185–191, 1890) considered the genus *Nysius* as a unit and designated *Nysius zealandicus* Dallas as its type. *Zealandicus* had previously been set apart by Stål (1868) in a monotypic subgenus, *Rhypodes*, and *Nysius* was used for the cosmopolitan group including *thymi* and its allies. This did not exclude *zealandicus* from consideration as the genotype 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 fixation was overlooked, and it remained for Mr. 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 type of the subfamily Artheneinae), actually comprised two genera. Instead of following general usage and designating *foveolata* as the type of *Artheneis*, Kirkaldy cited

"(type *eymoides*), = *Nysius* Dallas, 1852" (sic!), thus confusing the *Nysius* picture and necessitating a new name, *Tyrrheneis*, which he proposed 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 genotype fixations and designated genotypes designed to legalize current usage. Oshanin's type designations 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 designated genotypes 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 Zoological Congress and that the following actions be taken:

1. Reject Distant's (1903) designation of *Nysius zealandicus* Dallas in favor of Oshanin's (1912) designation of *Lygaeus thymi* Wolff, 1804, as type of *Nysius* Dallas, 1852.
2. Reject Kirkaldy's (1909) designation of *Artheneis cymoides* Spinola, 1837, in favor of Oshanin's (1912) designation of *Artheneis foveolata* Spinola, 1837, as the type of *Artheneis* Spinola, 1837.

CONCLUSIONS

Suppression of the Distant and Kirkaldy genotype designations will result in the following:

Nysius Dallas, 1852, type *Lygaeus thymi* Wolff, 1804.
(= *Macroparius* Stål, 1872), type *Heterogaster gramini-*
cola Kolenati, 1846.

Rhyphodes Stål, 1868, type (*Nysius zealandicus* Dallas, 1852)
= *R. clavicornis* (F.), 1794.

(= *Myersia* Evans, 1929), type *Lygaeus clavicornis* F.,
1794.

Artheneis Spinola, 1837, type *Artheneis foveolata* Spinola, 1837.

(= *Tyrrheneis* Kirkaldy, 1909), type *Artheneis foveolata* Spinola, 1837.

SUMMARY OF LITERATURE

Nysius Dallas, 1852, List of Hemiptera, vol. 2, p. 551. (No type designated.)

Nysius, Distant, 1903, Fauna Brit. India, vol. 2, p. 17 [Type designated as (*Nysius zealandicus* Dallas) = *Rhypones clavicornis* (F.).]

Nysius, Oshanin, 1912, Kat. Palae. Hemip., p. 28. (Type designated as *N. thymi* Wolff.)

Macroparius Stål, 1872, Ofv. K. Svensk. Vet.-Akad. Forh. 29 (7): 43. (Type, *Heterogaster graminicola* Kolenati, 1846; the only included species.)

Rhypones Stål, 1868, Hemip. Fabr., p. 76. [Type, (*Nysius zealandicus* Dallas, 1852) = *Rhypones clavicornis* (F.), the only included species.]

Myersia Evans, 1929, Bull. Ent. Res. 19: 353. [Type, (*Lygaeus clavicornis* F., 1794) = *Rhypones clavicornis* (F.).]

Artheneis Spinola, 1837, Essai Hemip., p. 250. (No type designated, but genus divided into two subdivisions.)

Artheneis, Kirkaldy, 1909, Canad. Ent. 41: 31. (Type designated as "*eymoides*.")

Artheneis, Oshanin, 1912, Kat. Palae. Hemip., p. 31. (Type designated as *Artheneis foveolata* Spinola.)

Tyrrheneis Kirkaldy, 1909, Canad. Ent. 43: 31. (Type designated as "*foveolata*.")

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, 547TH REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 1, 1944

The 547th regular meeting of the Society was held Thursday, June 1, 1944, in Room 43 of the National Museum with President Annand presiding. Twenty seven members and 17 visitors were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

New members were elected as follows:

Mayor Roberto Levi Castillo, P. O. Box 759, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Capt. John N. Belkin, 20th Malaria Survey Unit, APO 709, c/o P. M., San Francisco, Calif.

Dr. W. H. Mitchell, Bibliography Division, Library, U. S. Dept. Agr., Washington, D. C.

Mr. Sailer stated that the species of bedbug collected at Gainesville, Florida, in 1938 was definitely the tropical species, *Cimex hemipterus*. Its identity had been tentatively confirmed by Dr. G. M. List in 1940. There are now records from 7 localities, indicating a widespread distribution in the State. He also



Usinger, Robert L. and Sailer, R. I. 1944. "Nomenclature of the genus *Nysius* and its allies (Lygaeidae: Heteroptera)." *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 46, 260–262.

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