Case 2671**J.C. Megerle's (1801–1805) auction catalogues of insects: proposed suppression, with conservation of the specific names of *Saperda alboguttata* Megerle, 1803 (now in *Apomecyna*) (Coleoptera) and *Hippobosca variegata* Megerle, 1803 (Diptera)**

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Abstract. It is proposed that the extremely rare and usually neglected publications by Megerle (1801–1805) entitled *Catalogus Insectorum* and *Appendix ad catalogum insectorum* be ruled to be unavailable. Despite this, the conservation is recommended of two specific names, those of *Apomecyna alboguttata* (Megerle, 1803) (Coleoptera, CERAMBYCIDAE) and *Hippobosca variegata* Megerle, 1803 (Diptera, HIPPOBOSCIDAE).

1. Johann Carl Megerle (1765–1840; from 1803 Megerle von Mühlfeld) worked as collection curator in the Wiener Hofmuseum (now the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna). He organized an 'Auctionsinstitut' (1798–1806) for selling by auction naturalia, especially insects. Eleven catalogues of insects (and some other arthropods) published by Megerle for these auctions are known (Schenkling, 1935).

2. The only known complete set of these catalogues is in the entomological library of the Eberswalde branch of the German Institute for Plant Protection (former library of the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut). Photocopies of this Eberswalde set are in the library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., and another (kindly sent by Dr H.J. Müller) is in the Zoological Institute, Leningrad.

3. Megerle's catalogues contain about 290 new specific names and at least three new generic names, most of them in Coleoptera (see Table on following page), which are formally available. They also contain a number of misspelled names; one such misspelling (*Jasus* for *Iassus* Fabricius, 1803) was placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names (Opinion 612, 1961).

4. In the catalogues the names of European species are printed in normal type and those of exotic species in italics. About 50 new species are European; their distribution is not indicated, except for species from Russia. The new exotic species are from Bengal, U.S.A. (Georgia), Australia ('Nova Hollandia'), etc., but for many of them the distribution is not given. Megerle (abbreviated to 'M.') is indicated as author of most new taxa, but some names are credited by him to Preyßler, Schreibers, Hellwig, Ziegler and others.

5. All the diagnoses are short, often in abbreviated words. Some examples are: 'parva', 'min. bifronti', 'med. inter arvens. et sylvestr.', 'Med. nig. flav. vari. Ali, aqu. post. mac. fusc. per. lin. flav. divis. et flav. nervos.', and 'F. 51 β' (which means Fabricius, *Entomologia Systematica*: *Tenthredo* species 51, var. β). Some of Megerle's type specimens are in the Vienna Museum (Thompson, 1988), and others may be found

Megerle Catalogue	Date of auction	New specific names										New generic names	
		Coleoptera	Odonata	Orthoptera	Homoptera	Heteroptera	Neuroptera	Hymenoptera	Diptera	Lepidoptera	Scorpionida	Coleoptera	Homoptera
(1801)	14.xii.1801	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
(1802a)	12. iv.1802	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(1802b)	9. xi.1802	23	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
(1803a)	2. iv.1803	81	2	1	4	15	1	12	6	2	1	—	—
(1803b)	28. xi.1803	69	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—
(1804a)	14. v.1804	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
(1804b)	14. v.1804	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(1804c)	20. ix.1804	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
(1804d)	27.xii.1804	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(1805a)	June 1805	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
(1805b)	18. xi.1805	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

in collections of Megerle's contemporaries, especially those of P.F.M.A. Dejean, L. Gyllenhal, C.J. Schoenherr and J. Sturm.

6. About 30 of Megerle's available specific names with descriptions were also published by later authors (e.g. G.W.F. Panzer, C. Duftschmid, E.F. Germar, P.F.M.A. Dejean, C. Quensel, L. Gyllenhal, C.R.W. Wiedemann), who as a rule indicated Megerle as author of the name and in two cases (Panzer, [1804], pp. 4, 6, 8; Wiedemann, 1830, pp. 581, 603) even gave a reference to his catalogues. For nearly all these names (for two exceptions see para. 8) the authorship is currently attributed to these later authors. Most of Megerle's available names were never mentioned again in the literature, although some in Coleoptera are simply given in lists without bibliographic reference. Sherborn's *Index Animalium* (1922–1933) does not include Megerle's (1801–1805) names.

7. Acceptance of the names established in Megerle's *Catalogus Insectorum* would greatly disturb the stability of nomenclature (Schenkling, 1935; Horn, 1937, p. 396). In Coleoptera (CHRYSOMELIDAE) the well known genus *Doryphora* Illiger, 1807, which includes several hundred species, would become *Doriphora* Megerle. In Homoptera (MEMBRACIDAE) the current names of two genera would be changed as a result of a change of type species for *Centrotus* Fabricius, 1803. No less than 20 currently used specific names would become invalid as junior primary homonyms of Megerle's names, and for about 30 currently valid specific names the authorship and date would be changed. It can also not be excluded that for a number of Megerle's species the identity will be recognized (especially if their types are discovered) and their names will be found

to be senior synonyms of currently used names. It is clear that in the interests of stability of nomenclature Megerle's (1801–1805) catalogues should be suppressed.

8. To the best of my knowledge, only two specific names established in Megerle's catalogues have been continuously (for more than 50 years) used with his authorship. These are those of *Saperda alboguttata* Megerle, 1803a (p. [10]) (now in *Apomecyna*) (Coleoptera, CERAMBYCIDAE) and *Hippobosca variegata* Megerle, 1803a (p. [17]) (Diptera, HIPPOBOSCIDAE) (for the first name see Aurivillius, 1921, p. 278 and Gressitt, 1951, p. 489, and for the second see Wiedemann, 1830, p. 603; Maa, 1977, p. 416 and Hutson & Oldroyd, 1980, p. 770).

9. Thompson (1988, pp. 209, 221–222) accepted *Syrphus violascens* Megerle, 1803b (p. [36]) as a valid name and changed *Chalcosyrphus chalybeus* (Wiedemann, 1830, p. 98, originally established as *Xylota chalybea*) to *C. violascens* (Megerle, 1803) (Diptera, SYRPHIDAE). He also noticed that for *Pyrgota undata* Wiedemann, 1830 (p. 581; misspelt by Thompson as 'undulata') (Diptera, PYRGOTIDAE) reference to *Myopa undata* Megerle, 1803a (p. [17]) was given by Wiedemann himself. These changes of names and/or authorship (for the former practice see Wirth, Sedman & Weems, 1965, p. 606; Steyskal, 1965, p. 657) are very recent and I do not regard conservation of *Syrphus violascens* Megerle, 1803 and *Myopa undata* Megerle, 1803 as substantiated by usage or to be appropriate.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers:

(a) to suppress for nomenclatural purposes the works entitled *Catalogus Insectorum ...* and *Appendix ad catalogum insectorum ...* published by J.C. Megerle (1801–1805);

(b) to rule that the following specific names are available despite having been published in a suppressed work:

(i) *alboguttata* Megerle, 1803, as published in the binomen *Saperda alboguttata*;

(ii) *variegata* Megerle, 1803, as published in the binomen *Hippobosca variegata*;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:

(a) *alboguttata* Megerle, 1803, as published in the binomen *Saperda alboguttata* and as conserved in (1)(b)(i) above;

(b) *variegata* Megerle, 1803, as published in the binomen *Hippobosca variegata* and as conserved in (1)(b)(ii) above;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoology the works entitled *Catalogus Insectorum...* and *Appendix ad catalogum insectorum...* published by J.C. Megerle (1801–1805), as suppressed in (1)(a) above.

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