COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF TYPE SPECIES FOR
NYMPHULA SCHRANK, 1802. Z.N.(S.)2384
(see vol. 39, pp. 209-212)

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I support the application of Fletcher & Nye, 1982, concerning the species best known as Nymphula stagnata (Donovan, 1806).

In 1793 Hübner first published a figure of this species under the name Phalaena potamogalis. Unfortunately, this was a misidentification of Phalaena potamogalis [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775, which is an unjustified emendation of Phalaena (Geometra) potamogata Linnaeus, 1758, a completely different species now considered to be synonymous with Phalaena (Geometra) nymphaeata Linnaeus, 1758.

When Schrank described his genus Nymphula, he included a species potamogalis in the sense of Hübner, 1793 and 1796 and it was this species that Moore, 1887, cited as the type species of the genus. The valid specific name for this species is stagnata Donovan, 1806, and Fletcher & Nye were quite right to ask the Commission to designate that species as the type species of Nymphula. This corresponds with Schrank’s and Moore’s concept of the genus.

Account must, however, be taken of Phalaena nitidulata [Hufnagel], 1767 (pp. 618–619) from the vicinity of Berlin, which was placed in the synonymy of Nymphula nymphaealis Treitschke, 1829, non [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775 by Treitschke. This is the same species as Phalaena stagnata Donovan. The description by [Hufnagel] strongly supports Treitschke’s interpretation: ‘Phalaena nitidulata, Der Wasservogel. Schneeweiss mit einigen irregulären hellbraunen Zeichnungen. Aufenthalt der Phalane bei Gewässern im Grase. Zeit der Phalane Julius und August. Grössse der Phalane von der dritten. Selten.’ [Hufnagel] also described Phalaena nymphaeata as being ‘of the third size’, which was his way of giving the relative size of each species. We cannot be completely sure of the identity of [Hufnagel’s] species except by reference to Treitschke’s interpretation.

In order to avoid any confusion, and to conserve a well-known name, I ask the Commission to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name nitidulata [Hufnagel], 1767, as published in the binomen Phalaena nitidulata, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
The following view of Dr Kuznetsov and Dr Kerzhner’s case for the suppression of *Cydia* Hübner, [1825] is given for the Commission’s consideration before a decision is taken:

1. *Laspeyresia* Hübner, [1825] is a junior homonym of *Laspeyresia* R.L., 1817;
2. The oldest synonym of *Laspeyresia* Hübner [1825] is *Cydia* Hübner, [1825];
3. *Cydia* Hübner, [1825] is the valid replacement name for *Laspeyresia* Hübner, [1825], based on priority. This argument was used and followed by Bradley, 1972 and others as indicated in paragraph 8 of Kuznetsov & Kerzhner’s statement;
4. Other arguments have little relevance for the future. Either decision will cause some workers difficulty; however, the decision based on priority, the basic principle of the Code, provides for stability of nomenclature.

The following point, though not germane to my argument, should be significant to the Commission: four checklists (Bradley, 1972 in Kloet & Hincks, Checklist of British Insects, pt 2, Lepidoptera; Léraut, 1980, Liste systématique et synonymique des Lépidoptères de France, Belgique et Corse; Powell, 1983 in Hodges, Checklist of Lepidoptera of America north of Mexico; and Powell, in press, in Heppner, Atlas of Neotropical Lepidoptera, Checklist, part 1) that treat a significant part of the world’s lepidopteran fauna use *Cydia* Hübner, [1825] as the valid name and cite *Laspeyresia* Hübner, [1825] as a junior homonym of *Laspeyresia* R.L., 1817.

I strongly urge the Commission not to suppress *Laspeyresia* R.L., 1817.

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As an active tortricidologist, I should like to comment on the proposal by Kuznetsov & Kerzhner to conserve *Laspeyresia* Hübner, [1825] by suppressing *Laspeyresia* R.L., 1817 and *Cydia* Hübner, [1825].

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