

THE NAMES OF SOME MALLOPHAGEN GENERA.

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RECENTLY Dr. Kéler has attempted to re-introduce into the nomenclature certain generic names of Mallophaga. This note has been prepared with the object of preventing the confusion which may arise if Dr. Kéler's proposals as to these names are accepted. The names in question are: *Nirmus*, *Physostomum*, *Liotheum*, *Colpocephalum* and *Docophorus*, all of which were published by Nitzsch in 1818.

Neumann (1906) has shown that *Nirmus* Hermann 1804 is a synonym of *Ricinus* de Geer and invalidates *Nirmus* Nitzsch, which is thus preoccupied and was therefore renamed *Degeeriella* by Neumann. Dr. Kéler has therefore no grounds for reinstating *Nirmus* Nitzsch in place of *Degeeriella* Neumann.

Neumann (1906) designated as genotype of *Ricinus* the species *R. fringillae* de Geer, which is conspecific with *irascens* Nitzsch (1818, *nom. nud.*, described by Burmeister, 1838). This latter species was included by Nitzsch in his subgenus *Physostomum*, together with two other congeneric species; thus *Physostomum* Nitzsch, as Neumann (1906) has pointed out, is synonymous with *Ricinus* de Geer, and cannot be used in the place of this latter genus as Dr. Kéler (1936) proposes. The status of both these genera has already been considered fully by Neumann (1906) and Johnston and Harrison (1911).

Liotheum Nitzsch was considered to be a synonym of *Ricinus* de Geer by Johnston and Harrison (1911), due to the fact that in Nitzsch's original paper, 1818, the species *irascens* (synonymous with *fringillae*, genotype of *Ricinus*) was listed under the generic name *Liotheum* within the genus *Physostomum*. This fact, however, does not invalidate *Liotheum*, which must be used for *Liotheum zebra*, the genotype designated by Neumann, 1906. Since Johnston and Harrison (1911) considered *zebra* to be the type of *Colpocephalum*, this latter genus must become a synonym of *Liotheum*, which is unfortunate, as it entails the suppression of a well-established name in the place of one which has scarcely been used since Nitzsch's original paper in 1818.

Philopterus Nitzsch was originally described as a genus containing four subgenera, the first mentioned of which was *Docophorus*. Neumann (1906) designated as genotype of *Philopterus* the first described species, *i. e.* *ocellatus* Scopoli, under the first-mentioned subgenus, *Docophorus*, and considered that the name *Philopterus* should replace that of *Docophorus*, as in the elevation of the subgenera of *Philopterus* to generic rank the original genus *Philopterus*

had not been retained. This fact, however, does not invalidate *Docophorus*, which can be used for any of the species originally included in this subgenus by Nitzsch. The revival of the name *Docophorus* would in no way simplify the nomenclature and would probably lead to confusion. Therefore the species *Philopterus* (*Docophorus*) *ocellatus* Scopoli (genotype of *Philopterus*) is here designated as genotype of *Docophorus*, thus sinking this latter genus as a synonym of *Philopterus*.

I am much indebted to Dr. Jordan for much valuable advice on this matter.

REFERENCES.

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 NEUMANN (1906).—*Bull. Soc. Zool. France*, 31 : 54 sqq.
 JOHNSTON and HARRISON (1911).—*Proc. Linn. Soc. of New South Wales*, pt. 2, 36 : 321 sqq.
 KÉLER (1936).—*Bull. Ent. Pologne*, 14-15 : 313 sqq.