

*Submitted for publication but not
yet published. W.H.H.*

ON CERTAIN MULTIGRAPHED DOCUMENTS --- PUBLISHED OR UNPUBLISHED?

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Since 1938 Dr. (now Professor) W. Eichler has distributed to students of the Mallophaga a document, divided into 20 "Lieferungen" issued at irregular intervals, called Acta Mallophagologica. This is of foolscap size and is printed on paper of very poor quality; the quality of the reproduction varies greatly, some "Lieferungen" being fairly well reproduced while others are almost (or quite) illegible; the worst-reproduced "Lieferung" (no. 6) is shown in fig. . . In the first Lieferung Acta Mallophagologica is stated to be "vorvielfältigt und seit 1. April 1938 in zwangloser Folge im Selbstverlag herausgegeben von Wolfdietrich Eichler, Berlin-Wilmersdorf 1, Hindenburgstr. 35 III r. und Dorothea Ursula Müller, Berlin S. 61, Obentrautstr. 67 Gns II." An introduction states "In dieser Form wollen wir gelegentliche Mitteilungen hauptsächlich bibliographischer Art über Mallophagen bringen und durch Versendung an alle mit uns in Schriftwechsel stehenden Spezialisten für

eine allgemeine Verbreitung Sorge tragen. Die verschiedenen Sorten der Mitteilungen sind in einzelne Serien fassst. In beschrifteten Umschlägen stehen die Acta auch unseren Korrespondenten für Umfragen und Mitteilungen offen. Die Erscheinungsweise ist unregelmässig doch soll jährlich mindestens ein Blatt herauskommen."

For the most part the Lioforungen of Acta Mallophagologica do not raise any nomenclatorial problems, but in nos. 7 and 8 numerous supposed families and subfamilies are proposed (all without definition but with list of genera considered to be contained in them), no. 10 contains many new generic names (all nomina nuda) and in no. 13 a manuscript name taken from Phthirapterarum Hundii Catalogus (to be discussed below) is given as a synonym of a published name held by Dr. Eichler to be preoccupied, and is thus validated if Acta Mallophagologica is a published work.

It has been very generally accepted that Acta Mallophagologica is unpublished, and it would not have been thought necessary to raise the matter had not Dr. Eichler recently claimed published status for it, writing (1949, Beitr. tax. Zool., 1:21, footnote) "Diese Arbeit gilt als veröffentlicht, da Abzüge

in der Deutschen Bücherei in Leipzig, dem Deutschen Entomologischen Institut und dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin usw. öffentlich zugänglich sind."

Phthirapterarum Mundi Catalogus is a roneoed document of 64 foolscap pages produced by Dr. Eichler at an unspecified date. It is on similar paper to Acta Mallophagologica, but the reproduction is better. Had Dr. Eichler confined himself to validly published names it would be a useful basis for the compilation of a list of the lice, but unfortunately it contains many new names; most of these, being nomina nuda, are outside the scope of zoological nomenclature, but there are also many nomina nova for material considered by Dr. Eichler to be misdetermined or to require naming for some other reason. As an example it may be mentioned that Piaget described in 1880 (Les Podiculines, Leiden:211,213) two forms which he considered to be varieties of Acidoprotus bifasciatus and A. maximus but carefully refrained from naming them; in Phthirapterarum Mundi Catalogus both these forms are given names and both names will be valid if the work is to be considered to have been published, since there are references to Piaget's descriptions. The unwise use of this

procedure is very evident when it is stated that in one instance Piaget's entire description of the variety is that "l'abd. de la femelle était plus développé surtout en largeur", that as Piaget's material was mostly from museum skins the supposed host is often erroneous, and that Piaget's specimen (the type of Eichler's nomen novum) is lost.

The undoubted fact that these names, if valid, will hinder rather than help the study of Mallophaga can hardly be permitted to influence the decision of the Commission as to whether they have been published, since if Dr. Eichler should publish them in print they will undoubtedly be technically valid. But Dr. Eichler himself, in the first paragraph of "Phthirapterarum Mundi Catalogus" explicitly disclaims published status for this work, stating "The beneath compilation, edited since June 1946 by Dr. Wolfdiotrich Eichler (Stadtblick 2, Ravensburg, Wurttemburg, Germany) as "Sonderbeilage VI" of the Acta Mallophagologica, is a literature-borne essay, intended first as a basis for the discussion of generic groupings of lice, and later as to be published." In spite of this explicit disclaimer, Phthirapterarum Mundi Catalogus is being treated by some writers as a published work and names are being quoted from it as if they had some validity.

The International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature is, therefore, asked to declare that both Acta Mallophagologica and Phthirapterarum Mundi Catalogus are unpublished documents and that new names contained in them have no status of availability.
