

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO
DESIGNATE A TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENUS
"EUREUM" NITZSCH, 1818 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER
MALLOPHAGA) IN HARMONY WITH CURRENT NOMEN-
CLATORIAL PRACTICE

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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give a ruling, if necessary under the plenary powers, that *Eureum cimicoides* Burmeister, 1838 (*Handb. Ent.* 2 : 441) is the type species of the genus *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818 (*in Germar's Mag. Ent.* 3 : 301), in order to prevent the serious confusion which would arise if, as has been argued by Eichler, it were necessary under the *Règles* to accept *Eureum malleum* Burmeister, 1838 (*loc. cit.* 2 : 441) as the type species of this genus. The facts of this case are set out in the following paragraphs.

In 1818 (: 301) Nitzsch published the generic name *Eureum*; he gave an indication for this name, thereby making it available under the Article 25, but he cited under it only two *nomina nuda*, namely *Eureum cimicoides* and *Eureum malleum*. This nominal genus is thus one established without any included nominal species. Accordingly, up to 1948 it would have been necessary to apply the ruling given in *Opinion* 46 in order to determine what is the type species of this genus. Fortunately, however it is no longer necessary to attempt this difficult operation, for in 1948 the International Congress of Zoology (on the advice of the International Commission) substituted clear and self-consistent provisions for the, in part, self-contradictory ruling given in the foregoing *Opinion* (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 159-160, 346). Under this ruling, we have first to ascertain when this generic name was first subsequently used by an author who cited under it nominal species, the names of which had been validly published with an indication, definition or description, the nominal species so cited being, under the foregoing ruling by the Congress the only species to be treated as being originally included species and therefore, where more than one such species is so cited, as the only species eligible to be selected by a later author as the type species of this genus.

The first occasion on which any validly described nominal species were clearly referred to the genus *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818, was in 1838, when Burmeister (2 : 441) published descriptions of two nominal species, *Eureum cimicoides* and *Eureum malleum* (using, it will be noted, the two specific names cited as *nomina nuda* in 1818 by Nitzsch, whose material was before Burmeister when he published these descriptions). Under the Paris decision quoted above, these two nominal species alone are eligible for selection as the type species of *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818.

In 1911 Johnston & Harrison (*Proc. linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 36 : 321-328) selected type species for a number of genera of the Order Mallophaga; in the list given

in their paper they placed an asterisk against the name of each genus, the type species of which they regarded themselves as having selected on this occasion. Of the genus *Eureum*, against the name of which no asterisk was placed, these authors wrote:—" *Eureum* N. is included by Neumann in his list of genera, though Kellogg (1899, p. 133) has shown it to be based on immature forms of a *Menopon*. The latter author has studied *E. malleus* N. (= *E. malleum*) which, being the better known of Nitzsch's two species, may be taken as the type."

Five years later Harrison (1916, *Parasitology* 9: 21) listed what he called "*Eureum cimicoides* Nitzsch" (i.e. *Eureum cimicoides* Burmeister, 1838) as the type species of the genus *Eureum* Nitzsch; in the body of the same paper (: 62) Harrison attributed this species to "Nitzsch in Burmeister". In making the foregoing statement regarding the type species of this genus, Harrison must either have considered that he and Johnston had not selected *Eureum malleum* Burmeister as the type species in 1911 or have forgotten the action then taken or have decided to ignore it.

Subject to the single exception noted below, all subsequent authors have accepted *Eureum cimicoides* Burmeister as having been validly selected as the type species of *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818, by Harrison in 1916. It may be noted also that all authors subsequent to Harrison have considered *E. cimicoides* Burmeister and *E. malleum* Burmeister as not being congeneric with one another.

On page 20 of an undated instalment (probably distributed in 1946) of his multigraphed paper "Phthiraptera Mundi Catalogus" (the status of which, from the point of view of qualifying as having been duly published within the meaning of Article 25 (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 215-221) must at present be regarded as doubtful) Dr. Eichler took the view that the action taken by Johnston & Harrison in 1911 (in the passage already quoted) constitutes a valid selection by those authors of *Eureum malleum* Burmeister as the type species of the genus *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818, and therefore that it was not open to Harrison in 1916 to select another species (*Eureum cimicoides* Burmeister) as the type species of this genus. Dr. Eichler accordingly transferred the name *Eureum* Nitzsch to the genus in which *Eureum malleum* Burmeister is now placed, sinking, as a synonym, the generic name *Hirundoecus* Ewing, 1930 (*Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 77 (No. 20): 12), by which that species is now habitually known. At the same time Dr. Eichler established a new nominal genus (: 5) to which he gave the name *Arndtiella* and for which he designated *Eureum cimicoides* "Ntz. i. Brm." (i.e. *Eureum cimicoides* Burmeister, 1838) as the type species. About two years later—in 1948—Dr. Eichler again used the name *Arndtiella* (*Naturwissenschaftlichen Rundschau* 1948 (2): 31), of which he then stated that the type species was "*Eureum cimicoides* Nitzsch in Burmeister". Thus, according to Dr. Eichler's view, the generic name *Arndtiella* Eichler should in future be used for the genus universally known by the name *Eureum* Nitzsch.

Hitherto I have taken the view that, under Rule (g) in Article 30, "rigidly construed" (as required by that Article), Johnston & Harrison (1911) did not select *Eureum malleum* Burmeister as the type species of *Eureum* Nitzsch, and I have felt confirmed in this view by reason of the fact that in this paper Johnston

& Harrison did not place an asterisk against the name *Eureum* Nitzsch, as they did against the generic names included in that paper, for which on that occasion they selected type species. I have now seen the decision taken by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology in 1948 (on the recommendation of the International Commission) published last year (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4**: 181-182) that "an author is to be treated as having selected a given originally included nominal species to be the type species of the nominal genus concerned . . . provided in such a case the author concerned makes it clear that he himself accepts, for whatever reason, the species in question as the type species of the genus concerned." I recognise that the object of the foregoing provision was to give valid force to the very large number of currently accepted type selections which rest (as the papers in which they were published show) not upon a definite act of selection by the author concerned but upon a definite statement by that author that the species in question is the type species of the genus under consideration. But this decision by the Paris Congress in no way affects my opinion that Johnston & Harrison (1911) did not make any selection of a type species for *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818. The phrase "may be taken as the type" to my mind definitely implies that it also may not be taken as the type, and is in no way the same as "is the type", and there is nowhere in Johnston and Harrison's paper a definite statement that any nominal species "is the type" of the nominal genus *Eureum*. However, as others may take a different view (as, indeed, Dr. Eichler has done) I am assuming for the purpose of this application that Johnston and Harrison did make a valid selection of a type for *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818.

As already explained the acceptance of *E. malleum* Burmeister as the type species of *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818, would overthrow the universal practice of all specialists in this group (except Dr. Eichler) and would give rise to totally unnecessary confusion and name-changing, involving, as it would, the transfer of the generic name *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818, from the genus containing the species *Eureum cimicoides* Burmeister, 1838, to the genus to which the species *Eureum malleum* Burmeister, 1838, is referred by all authors, other than Dr. Eichler. In taking his action, Dr. Eichler applied to this latter genus the name *Hirundoecus* Ewing, 1930 (*Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* **77** (No. 2843): 12) (type species, by original designation: *Hirundoecus americanus* Ewing, 1930, *ibid.* **77** (No. 2843): 12). In connection with this genus, it may at this point be noted that many authors (of whom I am one) do not consider that on taxonomic grounds the nominal genus *Hirundoecus* Ewing, 1930, is separable from *Machaerilaemus* Harrison, 1915 (*Parasitology* **7**: 389), the type species of which is, by original designation, *Machaerilaemus latifrons* Harrison, 1915 (*ibid.* **7**: 390).

In order to avoid the serious consequences indicated above, I accordingly now ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:—

(1) to use its plenary powers:—

- (a) to set aside all type selections for the genus *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818, made prior to the decision now proposed to be given;
- (b) to designate *Eureum cimicoides* Burmeister, 1838, to be the type species of the foregoing genus;

(2) to place the undermentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Eureum* Burmeister, 1818 (type species, by designation, as proposed under (1) (a) above, under the plenary powers : *Eureum cimicoides* Burmeister, 1838) ;
- (b) *Hirundoecus* Ewing, 1930 (type species, by original designation : *Hirundoecus americanus* Ewing, 1930) (for use by those specialists who regard the type species of this genus as not being congeneric with *Machaerilaemus latifrons* Harrison, 1915, the type species of *Machaerilaemus* Harrison 1915) ;
- (c) *Machaerilaemus* Harrison, 1915 (type species, by original designation : *Machaerilaemus latifrons* Harrison, 1915) ;

(3) to place the undermentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :

- (a) *cimicoides* Burmeister, 1838 (as published in the binominal combination *Eureum cimicoides*) (trivial name of type species of *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818) ;
- (b) *malleum* Burmeister, 1838 (as published in the binominal combination *Eureum malleum*) ;
- (c) *americanus* Ewing, 1930 (as published in the binominal combination *Hirundoecus americanus*) (trivial name of type species of *Hirundoecus* Ewing, 1930) ;
- (d) *latifrons* Harrison, 1915 (as published in the binominal combination *Machaerilaemus latifrons*) ;

(4) to place the undermentioned generic names or reputed generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Arndtiella* Eichler, 1946 (a name which, if validly published, is an objective synonym of *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818, as proposed, under (1) (b) to be defined under the plenary powers) ;
- (b) *Arndtiella* Eichler, 1948 (an objective synonym of *Eureum* Nitzsch, 1818, as proposed, under (1) (b) above, to be defined under the plenary powers) ;