



THE TYPE-SPECIES OF THE MALLOPHAGAN
GENUS *HARRISONIELLA*

BY G. H. E. HOPKINS AND THERESA CLAY

ONE of us has already dealt (Hopkins, 1946) in this journal with one aspect of the problem of the type-species of *Harrisoniella*, and this part of the problem can be summarized briefly: there are on most albatrosses two elongate species of Ischnocera of which one is very large (8 or 9 mm. long) and almost wholly blackish, while the other is much smaller and is mainly white with black margins. The earliest name for any species of either type is *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius, 1775, and the description accompanying this name quite excludes the large blackish insect (the earliest valid name for which is *Lipeurus ferox* Giebel, 1867) but fits the other type quite well. Unfortunately, Dufour (1835, p. 669, pl. 21, figs. 1, 2) misidentified specimens of the large blackish insect as *diomedae* Fabricius and this misdetermination was accepted by later authors until Harrison (1916, pp. 133, 134) listed both *diomedae* and *ferox* in his new genus *Esthiopterum* with *ferox* as a synonym of *diomedae*. Bedford (1929, p. 529), in his description of *Harrisoniella*, unfortunately quoted as type-species "*Esthiopterum diomedae* Fabricius", but there is not the slightest doubt that the species he understood by this name was *ferox* Giebel: not only does his description fit *ferox* and not *diomedae*, but all the literature-references he gives under *diomedae* (with the exception of that of 1775) are to descriptions of *ferox* or species extremely closely related to it, and all the specimens in his collection labelled *Harrisoniella diomedae* (Fabricius) are also of this type. In fact, what Bedford understood by the name *diomedae* was *diomedae* of Dufour and subsequent authors, not *diomedae* Fabricius, 1775.

Clay (1940, pp. 299-302, figs. 1, 2, 4a, 5a, 6a) redescribed *diomedae* Fabricius, 1775, and proposed a neotype for it. She referred it to the genus *Perineus*.

Hopkins (1946) took the view that the type-species of *Harrisoniella* must be the species from which Bedford quite certainly drew up his description and not the one indicated by the name erroneously applied to it. This view was completely in accordance with the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature in force at that time, for Opinion 168 (*Opin. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 2, p. 421)

reads (italics ours) "in the absence of evidence to the contrary, it is to be assumed that the original author of a genus correctly identified the species assigned by him thereto" and the same qualifying phrase is contained in the resolution passed at Paris in 1948 (see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4, p. 158), but the deletion of the qualifying words in 1953 (*Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature*, para. 127) made Hopkins' view of the matter no longer correct.

Von Kéler (1956) disagrees with our actions on several grounds. He claims that the matter of misidentified type species of genera was settled by Opinions 65 and 168, ignoring the fact that 65 was superseded by 168 and that the latter included, at the time Hopkins wrote, the qualifying words which we have italicized. Next he seems to assert that one should not correct old wrong synonymies. Finally he claims that *diomedae* Fabricius, as represented by Clay's proposed neotype, is not a *Perineus*, but is congeneric with *Harrisoniella ferox* (Giebel), 1867.

We readily agree with von Kéler that in certain morphological characters *diomedae* Fabricius (and other albatross-infesting species commonly referred to *Perineus*) resembles *ferox* Giebel rather than the type-species of *Perineus*. But it is obvious that any discussion of this matter can only lead to chaos if some authors consider the type species of *Harrisoniella* to be the big blackish insect which Giebel described as *Lipeurus ferox* while others regard it as the small white one described by Fabricius as *Pediculus diomedae*.

We have, accordingly, submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature an application in which we ask them to set aside all previous designations of a type-species of *Harrisoniella* and to select *Lipeurus ferox* Giebel as type of this genus and we have also asked for official recognition to be given to the neotype of *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius erected by Clay in 1940. We ask all workers on Mallophaga to regard the matter as *sub judice* and to continue to use the names *Harrisoniella* Bedford and *diomedae* Fabricius in the sense in which all authors, including von Kéler, have employed them in recent years until the application has been dealt with by the Commission.

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