

Proposed suspension of the Règles for two nomina nuda of [Denis & Schiffermüller] (Lep., Satyridae)

by
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Since the publication of the two statements showing the inadmissibility of the great majority of the names created by (DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER) in their work "Schmett. Wien" (1775)*), I have given the matter considerable further study, and came to the following conviction.

If the rules would generally be suppressed in the case of (DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER) names, numerous changes in current nomenclature of Lepidoptera would result, in order to hold the law of priority for all the *nomina nuda* contained therein, even those almost disregarded till now. On the other hand, the suppression of the rules in the *individual* cases will avoid, with certainty, a large confusion in the lepidopterological nomenclature, as it will merely preserve the uniform use of some well-known names.

In the first place, the names of *Papilio arethusa* (Den. & Schiff.) and *Papilio medusa* (Den. & Schiff.) need be declared available. Anyone of the European lepidopterologists is informed about, what these names mean, and nobody has attempted to alter their significance. Accordingly, I propose herewith that the rules should be suspended in the two cases of *nomina nuda*, both *arethusa* and *medusa*.

I. *Eumenis arethusa*

The status of this name is plain from the following list of synonyms :
Eumenis arethusa ([Den. & Schiff.]), *nomen conservandum*.

Papilio arethusa [Den. & Schiff.], 1775, Schmett. Wien : 169, (nomen nudum).

Papilio arethusa Esper [1781], Schmett. 1 (2) : 103, tab. 69, cont. 19, fig. 3—4 [♂, ♀]. Nomen praeoccupatum (nec *Papilio arethusa* Cramer, 1775, Uitl. Kapellen 1 : 122 = *Papilio aritheusa* [sic!] Drury, 1773, Illustr. Natur. Hist. 2 : 35 & ind.!).

Papilio arethusus Herbst in JABLONSKY, 1796, Schmett. 8 : 166.

Papilio erythia Hübner, [1805], Samml. europ. Schmett., fig. 591—592. Transitus ad formam individualem (♂).

II. *Erebia medusa*

The status of this name is plain from the following list of synonyms :
Erebia medusa ([Den. & Schiff.]), *nomen conservandum*.

Papilio medusa [Den. & Schiff.], 1775, Schmett. Wien. : 167 (nomen nudum).

Papilio medusa Fabricius, 1787, Mant. Ins. 2 : 40. Nomen praeoccupatum (nec *Papilio medusa* Cramer, 1777, Uitl. Kapellen 2 : 86!).

*) See : PAČLT, J., 1947, Miscellanea entomol. 44 : 97—98. — PAČLT, J. & SMELHAUS, J., 1948, Prirod. Sbornik 3 : 218—221. — See also : BERNARDI, G., 1950, Bull. Soc. entomol. Mulhouse : 61—63.

- Papilio medea* Borkhausen, 1788. Naturg. 1 : 74. Nomen praeoccupatum (nec *Papilio medea* Cramer, 1781, Uitl. Kapellen 4 : 107, non *Papilio medea* Fabricius, 1775, Syst. Entomol. : 508 !).
- Papilio psodea* Hübner, [1803], Samml. europ. Schmett., fig. 497—499. Partim !
- Oreas franconius**) Oken, 1815, Lehrb. Naturg. 3 (1) : 744 (sub synonym !).

*) As to the origin of the name *franconius* I can furnish only a very small account. C. D. SHERBORN (1926, Index Animalium, sect. II, 10 : 2508) does not mention even OKEN's name, this being merely a citation of the synonym for his *Oreas medusa*. But I was unable to excerpt the name *franconius* from any earlier literature (before 1815), and for modern sources relating to that period, like SHERBORN's Index Animalium, sect. I. The sole reference I can give in this connection is the following: „Le franconien" [= a vernacular name], ERNST & ENGRAMELLE, 1779(—1793), Papillons d'Europe : 114, tab. 25, fig. 47a-b (♀). This butterfly seems to be an individual form of *Erebia medusa*.

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The Schiffermüller Names

by

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No group of species names in European Lepidoptera has been more discussed than those published in the Systematisches Verzeichniz der Schmetterlinge der Wienergegend. There cannot be the slightest doubt that many of them are invalid. To understand why they have succeeded to maintain themselves into our time it is sufficient to remember that they were used by OCHSENHEIMER and TREITSCHKE in their Schmetterlinge von Europa, and this publication played a dominant rôle in the study of European lepidoptera during a great part of the 19th century.

As long ago as 1910 STICHEL already proposed to submit the problem of these names to an International Commission (Int. ent. Z. Guben 4 : 80), but up to the present moment no such decision has ever been pronounced. Though a definite regulation of the SCHIFFERMÜLLER names is certainly highly desirable in order to arrive at stability, I do not think that it is necessary to take the validity of all these names into consideration. For we have an excellent guide in art. 25 of the International Rules which clearly indicates that only those names are valid which are published and accompanied by an indication, or a definition, or a description, if the author has applied the principles of binary nomenclature. This last provision does not cause any difficulty in the case of the Verzeichniz.

The names used by SCHIFFERMÜLLER and his cooperators can be divided into the following groups :

- a. Nine names of species fully described on p. 244—297 and figured on plates Ia and Ib.
- b. A few names the description of which is given in a footnote (e.g. *Papilio Ilia*, p. 171, and *Sphinx Pruni*, p. 308).
- c. Names which are substitutes for already existing ones. The old name is always cited with the new one (e.g. *Geometra Bupleuraria* for *Phaena Fimbrialis* Scopoli, p. 97).