

## Nomina conservanda of Coleoptera I

by

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In Ent. Berichten 12 (289) : 372 (May 1949) Prof. ROEPKE advocated the fixation of some insect names and I would heartily concur in his suggestions. Having just finished a manuscript on nomenclature, in which I pay special attention to the Coleoptera, I will give further evidence here in support of his proposals concerning the beetle names : *Calandra granaria*, *Myelophilus piniperda*, and the family name Scolytidae.

*Calandra granaria*. The first question arising here is the right spelling of the name, there being two orthographic variants : *Calandra* and *Calendra*. Both names were introduced in 1798 by CLAIRVILLE-SHELLENBERG (Helvet. Entom. 1); in the text, on p. 62 and 64, the name *Calendra* is used, on the accompanying plate II, however, *Calandra* is printed. Reasonably no preference to either of these names can be given on account of priority, for the plate is bound between the French and German texts and represents both species, *granaria* and *abbreviata*, brought to the new genus. An explanation of the name is not given.

In the Dict. des Sciences Natur. 6 : 192 (1817), under the heading Calandre/Calandra we find the following : "Ce mot calandre doit s'écrire par deux a, comme l'a fait Fabricius et la plupart des auteurs, et non calendre, comme on le voit dans quelques autres ouvrages, car les latins ont désigné en particulier le charançon du blé sous le nom de *calandrus*". SCHOENHERR (1826, Curcul. Disp. Meth. 4 : 328) derived the name from the Greek verb *καλεῖν* (to call) and *ἀνῆρ* (man). GEMMINGER and DE HAROLD in their wellknown Cat. Coleopterorum (1871, 8 : 2653) give the name *Calandra* as originating from the Greek proper name Kalandra. Now, the vernacular name for the grain-weevil is in French *calandre*, in German *Kalander*, in Dutch *kalander* or *klander*, all these names, being much older than the latin form used by Clairv.-Schell., are written with an a.

*Calendra* is said to be cognate with the mediaeval Latin words *calendra* and *celendra*, apparently corruptions of *cylindrus*.

Whatever the correct derivation of the two names may be, the name *Calandra* Clairv.-Schell. is most probably the latinized form of the French and German vernacular name. Considering the fact that the spelling *Calandra* has been universally accepted and remained in general use for a 150 years, and making full allowance for the much older vernacular names, we may safely accept *Calandra* as the right name, and reject the name *Calendra* as an unintentional orthographic error.

The generic name *Calandra* has also been proposed for the mediterranean Calandra lark, *Melanocorypha calandra* (L.), by ZIMMERMANN (1793, in BARTRAM, Reise Carolina : 286), but according to NEAVE (Nomencl. Zool.) this name is a nomen nudum, and can therefore be neglected.

The second question is : what is the type species of the coleopterous genus *Calandra*? LATREILLE (1810, Considérations générales : 431) made *Curculio abbreviatus* Fabricius (Mantissa Insect. 1 : 99) the type



of *Calandra*. This typification, however, is rejectable, for the *abbreviatus* Fabr. is not identical with the *abbreviata* Clairv.-Schell., although their species is said to be a synonym of FABRICIUS' species of the same name. The species included in the original genus of CLAIRV.-SCHELL. was already taken by SCHOENHERR (1838, Gen. et Spec. Curcul. 4: 933) for the same as *Rhynchophorus abbreviatus* Herbst 1795 (= *mutilatus* Laich. 1781). CSIKI (1936, Col. Cat. Curc. Cossoninae: 52) brings both names as synonymous with *striatopunctata* Goeze 1777. We have to drop LATREILLE's typification, as it is not allowed to designate as type of a genus a species not originally included in that genus (Art. 30 of the Code).

Afterwards, in 1815, LEACH (Edinb. Encycl. 9 Entom.: 106) made *Curculio granarius* Linn. 1758 (Syst. Nat. ed. X: 378) the type of *Calandra*. SCHOENHERR (1826, Curc. Disp. Meth. 4: 328) too has the same type-species of *Calandra*, considered by him a subgenus of *Rhynchophorus*. Some years later, however, in 1838 (Gen. et spec. Curcul. 4: 967) he dropped the genus *Calandra* entirely, without any reasonable motive, and replaced it by *Sitophilus*, designating not *granaria* but *oryzae* Linn. 1763 (Amoen. Acad. 6: 395) as the type of his new genus.

It is entirely in accordance with the Code if the International Commission on Zool. Nomenclature should place the name *Calandra* Clairv.-Schell. on the Official List of Generic names, with the type-species *Curculio granarius* Linn. *Sitophilus* remains a subjective synonym of *Calandra*, unless the species *granaria* and *oryzae* are not considered congeneric.

At the same time the name *Sphenophorus* Schoenherr 1838 (Gen. et spec. Curcul. 4: 874), also a genus of noxious weevils, can be fixed, with *Curculio abbreviatus* Fabr. 1787 as its type (typification by the original author).

### Scolytidae and Scolytus.

According to Opinion 133 it is not necessary to derive a family name from the name of the oldest genus belonging to the family in question. The only point of contention is whether *Scolytus* is a valid genus or not.

The generic name *Scolytus* was first used by GEOFFROY (1762, Hist. Ins. Paris 1: 309), the genus containing one species only, "le scolite". If we would reject GEOFFROY's name on account of the author not using a binominal system, the next author making the genus a valid one was GOEZE (1777, Entom. Beytr. 1: 143), using also the generic name *Scolytus* and replacing the name „scolite" by *Geoffroyi* (correctly *geoffroyi*). Later, FOURCROY (1785, Entom. Parisiensis: 139) established the name *niger* for GEOFFROY's species. Before both last-named authors FABRICIUS (1775, Syst. Entom.: 59) latinized the specific name scolite, placing his new species *scolytus* in the genus *Bostrichus*. The generic name *Scolytus* was therefore validated long before the genus *Eccoctogaster* was created by HERBST 1793.

The type of *Scolytus* by consequence of tautonymy is *Bostrichus scolytus* Fabr. All older authors, however, have rejected tautonyms, like botanists still do to-day (Art. 68 of the Botanical Rules), and the name *Scolytus geoffroyi* has been in general use before the introduction of the Code. We should strongly insist on the International Commission for suspend-



ing the rules not only in case of generally accepted generic names but of specific epithets too, which were in universal use in the last hundred years. *Scolytus* Geoffroy 1762 with the type-species *geoffroyi* Goeze 1777 should be placed therefore on the Official List.

*Myelophilus piniperda*. EICHHOFF (1864, Berlin. ent. Zeitschr. 8 : 25) separated the genus *Blastophagus* from the genus *Hylurgus*. In 1878 (Ent. Ztg. Stettin 39 : 400) he dropped this name and replaced it by *Myelophilus*, the name *Blastophagus* being preoccupied by GRAVENHORST's name of 1827 (Uebers. Arb. schles. Ges. : 23). Two years later GRAVENHORST himself emended his name into *Blastophaga* (Schles. Ges. vaterl. Kultur, Beitr. Entom. 1 : 27), which name came into general use for the well-known fig-insects. Independent of whether we accept GRAVENHORST's name *Blastophagus* or *Blastophaga*, the new name *Myelophilus* introduced by EICHHOFF is valid.

EICHHOFF included in his new genus at least two species, *piniperda* Linn. and *minor* Hart., but did not expressly indicate a type-species. This was done by LACORDAIRE in 1866 (Hist. nat. Ins. Col. 7 : 360), who fixed *Dermestes piniperda* Linn. 1758 (Syst. Nat. ed. X, : 355) as the type of EICHHOFF's genus *Blastophagus*. Without any difficulty the name *Myelophilus* Eichhoff 1878 and the type *Dermestes piniperda* Linn. 1758 can be fixed officially.

After the above note had been concluded CORPORAAL advocated the fixation of the names *Korynetes coeruleus* de G. and *Necrobia violacea* L. (1949, Entom. Ber. 12 (292): 422). We should like to support this suggestion but have some objections against the spelling of the first generic name with an initial K, as HERBST (1792) has it originally. According to art. 3 of the Code scientific names must be words which are either Latin or latinized, or considered and treated as such in case they are not of classic origin. Now the correct latinization of the greek word κορυνητής<sup>1)</sup> should be *Corynetes*, in Latin the Greek k always being rendered by c (cfr. also the Appendix to the Code under F). Even though we would not keep rigidly to the correct transliteration we should give adequate consideration to the spelling *Corynetes*, as emended by PAYKULL 1798, having been in universal use for more than a hundred years since. The latter spelling is still used by SCHENKLING in the Coleopterorum Cat. (1910), and is also recommended by APSTEIN in his list of nomina conservanda for Coleoptera (1915, Sitzb. Ges. naturf. Fr. 5 : 172). It looks, moreover, rather inconsistent to insist on the retaining of names in the sense in which they have been generally approved and not of the usual, and even more correct, spelling.

Any arguments for or objections against the above proposals should be addressed to Prof. H. BOSCHMA, Rijksmuseum van Nat. Historie, Leiden, secretary of the Commission on Nomenclature of the Neth. Entom. Society. After due time the said body will submit the proposals for further consideration to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

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<sup>1)</sup> The word has been misprinted in Ent. Ber., l.c.