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NEW YORK
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IT has been Mr. LOUDON's custom to preface each Volume of the *Magazine of Natural History* with an Address to the Contributors and Subscribers; and the adoption of such a course might naturally be expected from the present Conductor, upon the occasion of bringing to a close the First Volume of the New Series.

Prior, however, to the commencement of another year, it is hardly possible to form any decided estimate of the opinion which the Subscribers at large entertain of the general character of the Magazine under the existing arrangements; and, until all uncertainty upon this point is removed, it would, perhaps, be premature to discuss the present condition, or anticipate the future success, of the work.

The Editor, however, feels bound to acknowledge the support afforded to this Periodical, at a period when the attempt to carry it on promised to be attended with considerable difficulty, from the withdrawal in 1836 of a large number of the Contributors, and the establishment of a Journal devoted to Zoology and Botany, by parties in no way dependent on their literary labours.

A large proportion of the contents of the present Volume has been communicated by individuals of established reputation as Naturalists, while the entire number of writers amounts to nearly one hundred; and in no instance whatever has the slightest remuneration been given to any one Contributor, either for translations or original articles.

The circulation of the English scientific journals is so limited, that, taken in the aggregate, the sum realised by their sale falls short of the actual cost of printing and publishing; a result consequent upon their multiplicity, and perhaps still more upon the very general establishment of museums and public libraries; these institutions affording parties the means of consulting the pages of periodicals, without being obliged to have recourse to individual subscription.

The *Magazine of Natural History* is very generally admitted to have done much towards exciting an interest in the pursuits connected with the investigation of natural objects; and, so long as circumstances admit of the present Editor's carrying it on, if it con-

tinue to receive from various Contributors in future as much support as it has done during the past year, he will persevere in so doing, at least, while there is no actual loss upon its publication.

In pledging himself to this line of proceeding, the Editor feels that he may fairly call upon those who derive interest from the perusal of the work, to second his efforts, by exerting themselves to promote its circulation.

The proposed reduction to forty-eight pages, instead of fifty-six, has not been carried into effect; but, on the contrary, small type has been introduced, so as considerably to increase the amount of matter in the present Volume.

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6. The cricket is *Achèta* in England, *Grýllus* in France.

7. The bug is *Cimex* in England and France, and *Acánthia* in Germany.

If such confusion exist in such well-known tribes of insects, it may be very easily conceived what sources of perplexity exist when several authors are engaged upon any particular and especially difficult group of small or obscurely characterised tribes; instances of which I proposed to notice, contained in the last three works published in this country upon entomology; namely, Stephens's *Illustrations*, Curtis's *Genera*, and Shuckard's *Fossorial Hymenóptera*.

The first of these authors, in his sixth volume of mandibulated insects, has described twenty-eight species of the trichopterous genus (*Leptócerus* of Leach), which he divides into three sections. No typical species is stated; but the first six species (composing the first section), instead of comprising the species for which the author should retain the generic name *Leptócerus* (in case of division in the genus, which, he says, is probable), comprises species of which Latreille formed his genus *Mystáxis* (*Mystacide*); Leach's real type of the genus, *L. interrúptus*, being the twelfth species in the middle of section 2. In like manner, the first section of the genus *Limnéphilus* of Leach (which ought to have contained Leach's typical species *Phrygânea grísea Linn.*) is cut off as a distinct subgenus *Glyphotælius*, and the true type placed as the twelfth species of the second section.

The reader will observe that I do not here insist upon the necessity of placing a typical species at the head of a genus, because even our imperfect views of nature will enable us to see that such species ought often more naturally to be placed in company with others not arranged at the head of the genus, but I do insist, that, where an author does not state the particular species which he regards as the type of his genus, we are bound to suppose that he would place it at the head of his genus.

Mr. Curtis (*British Entomology*, pl. 632., February, 1837,) has illustrated the genus *Pemphrèdon*, giving *P. lugubris* as the type of the genus, and figuring another species (*P. unicolor*); stating, also, that *P. minutus Fab.*, and *trístis V. Lind.* (which last he had previously but incorrectly given as synonymous with *Psén pállipes Panz.* See *Shuckard, Foss. H.*, p. 188. and 227.), were typical species of his genus *Diodóntus* proposed and figured in pl. 436., April, 1834. In an article upon nomenclature, published in the first series of this Magazine, Vol. IX., I selected, amongst others, the genera *Pemphrèdon* and *Diodóntus* (then recently separated from that

genus by Mr. Curtis), as examples of what appeared to me to be an improper mode of treating the generic names of such groups. In order to show this, I first investigated the history of the old genus Pemphrèdon, proving that, at its first establishment, its characters were those of *P. minùtus*; which, indeed, Latreille, in his *Genera Crustaceorum*, &c., actually stated to be the type; and, in the second place, I noticed the injudicious plan adopted in such cases by Dr. Leach; its rejection by Mr. Curtis, who had, nevertheless, employed the name of Pemphrèdon for the typical Cemòni of Jurine, and had given a new name (*Diodóntus*) to the typical Pemphrédones.

By the recent publication of the *P. lùgubris*, &c. (or the typical Cemòni), under the name of Pemphrèdon, Mr. Curtis evidently retains his former opinion; and Mr. Shuckard, in his *Essay on Fossorial Hymenoptera*, states, in his observations on the genus Pemphrèdon, that "Mr. Curtis is certainly right;" and that I have "introduced confusion, by a string of inaccuracies, where the course was exceedingly clear;" giving, also, a history of the genus, which corroborates mine (which was confined to ascertaining the original type of the genus) in every respect; omitting to point out a single inaccuracy of mine*; omitting, also, the description of Pemphrèdon given in the third volume of the *Histoire Naturelle*, which is that of *P. minùtus*; not attempting to invalidate my principle, but giving a detailed, but partial, account of the treatment of the genus by Latreille, who subsequently changed his mind and his typical species together; did injustice to Jurine, violated the rules of generic nomenclature, and proved the incorrectness of his views relative to these groups, by uniting the original Pemphrèdon and Jurine's *Stigmus* into one genus. But Mr. Shuckard says that he "necessarily followed" Latreille's subsequent views; and it is by showing the nature of these subsequent views, that Mr. Shuckard's history and mine seem to disagree. But this leads to another practical question: whether an author, having named and characterised a genus, is at liberty to remodel it at a future time? and, if so, upon what conditions? And, I think, no one will deny that, if there be not good objections to such a step, an author has a right to modify his creations according to his more matured views. But I contend that, in this case, there were good grounds for opposing the alterations subsequently proposed by Latreille. Pemphrèdon, as originally, and again characterised, was a good

* I have sought for these inaccuracies in vain, with the exception of a troubled synonyme, concerning *Psén pállipes* of Panzer, which does not in the least degree bear upon the question.

genus; but Latreille did not know the name of its type. But the third time he treated upon the genus he gave the Cràbro lùgubris, as “l'espèce la mieux déterminée de ce genre;” which was true enough, for it was the only species whose specific name he had determined, not being acquainted even with the name of the insect he had dissected and described as the type in his *Précis*. He was now under the necessity of giving a determined species of each genus: C. lùgubris was the only species which he had specifically ascertained. He thought, from its general habit, that it was a Pemphrèdon, and gave it as such; but it happened, unfortunately, that he subsequently (*Gen. Crust.*, iv. 83.) ascertained that it was not a Pemphrèdon; but he chose rather to persist in his error, and retained it in all his subsequent works as the type of Pemphrèdon. But, in the mean time, an elaborate volume on the Hymenóptera had appeared by Jurine, in which the genus Cemònus was established, divided into two families; the first consisting of P. lùgubris (*), P. minùtus (+); and the second containing a single species, P. unicolor (‡). The genus Stígmus was also here first proposed, the only named species being Stígmus àter (péndulus *Panzer*) (‡). From this work Latreille learned the specific name of his original type of Pemphrèdon, P. minùtus; and we have now to notice in what manner he got over the difficulty into which he had fallen, by giving an insect as the type of Pemphrèdon which was not a Pemphrèdon. In his *Genera Crustacèorum, &c.*, he divided the genus into two sections, the first containing only Pemphrèdon lùgubris (*); and the second, only P. unicolor (‡). Thus the genus was synonymous with Jurine's Cemònus, except that P. minùtus (+) was removed.

The next genus was Stígmus, divided into two sections: the first, containing only P. minùtus (+), to which this synonyme was added, — “*Genr. Pemphredon Latr. Préc. des Caract. Génér. des Insect.*, p. 128.”; and the second, containing only Stígmus àter *Jur.* (‡). Thus, instead of another generic name having been given by Latreille to P. lùgubris, when he ascertained that it was not a Pemphrèdon, the generic name was wrested from its true type, which was now united with, and made the type of, Jurine's genus Stígmus, which was thus itself reduced to a secondary division of the genus of which it ought to have been retained as the type. The treatment, indeed, by Latreille, of the genus Pemphrèdon reminds one very strongly of the tragedy of Hamlet Prince of Denmark, the part of Hamlet being omitted by particular desire. But, jesting aside, the circumstances which I have stated are not such as would warrant the remodi-

fication which it has received from the hands of its original author. The course, as Mr. Shuckard observes, is clear enough, although it does not appear to be exactly that which he has followed. I should say, without hesitation, that the generic, or rather, perhaps, subgeneric, names of these groups ought certainly to be applied in the following manner:—

Genus PEMPHRE'DON *Latreille.*

- Subgenus 1. Pemphrèdon proper (*Diodóntus Curt.*), real type *P. minutus F.*
2. *Passalæ'cus Shk.* (*Xylæ'cus Shk. in tab.*), type *Diod. insignis C.*
3. *Ceratóphorus Shk.* (*Pemphrèdon p. Curt.*), type *P. mòrio V.L.*
4. *Cemónus Jur.* (*Pemphrèdon Lat., Curt., Shk.*), real type *lùgubris F.*
5. *Dineùrus* Westw.* (*Cemónus Shk.*), type *P. unicolor Lat.*

I will first add, by way of reply to those who would retain a generic name for species not agreeing with the type species, which last may have subsequently been proved to belong to an already named genus, that it must be evident that the author, in constructing such genus, must especially have had in view the typical species, which, indeed, often furnishes the generic name; that, by removing such type, the creation is dissolved, the tie which held the remaining discordant materials together is broken; and that, after the removal of that type, it would be as improper as practically injurious, to speak of the remainder as constituting such or such a genus of the author by whom the name was proposed.

ART. II. *Rules for Zoological Nomenclature.* By HUGH E. STRICKLAND, Esq., F.G.S.

IN order to exhibit more clearly my views on this subject, I have drawn up a few general rules, divested as much as possible of unnecessary verbiage; and beg to submit them to the consideration of your readers. They have little pretension to originality, but are selected from the writings of several naturalists, especially from the *Birds* of Mr. Swainson, many of whose aphorisms are adopted here.

1. The Latin nomenclature forms the only legitimate language of zoology (*Swainson*).

Latin names are adopted by naturalists of all nations, and are therefore preferable to any other. Where one language is sufficient for the purpose, all others are superfluous.

2. Names which have been long adopted and established

* From the first submarginal cell receiving two recurrent nerves.

require a different set of rules from names which are given for the first time.

Founding new institutions, and amending old ones, are two very different things; and what is desirable in the one case, is not always so in the other. We will therefore consider,

First, Rules which relate to *established* Nomenclature.

3. The discoverer of a species, or the founder of a higher division, has the best right to give it a name.

The person whose industry or study establishes a new group or species is commonly the best judge of a suitable appellation for it; yet, even should he fail in this point, it is only fair that, if his group be adopted, the name which he has proposed for it should be retained. Therefore,

4. The *first* name given to a group or species should be perpetually retained. (*Westwood, Fabricius, &c.*)

This law is subject to the following exceptions; and, in my opinion, to no others:—

5. A name is to be expunged which, if specific, has before been given to some other species in the same genus; or, if of a higher order, has before been given to some other group. (*Swainson, &c.*)

6. A name may be expunged whose meaning is false, as applied to the object or group which it represents. (*C. T. Wood, &c.*)

Yet, in some few cases, where a name, though false, does not really mislead, it should be retained, if long established. (See *Mag. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. I. p. 130. n. s.)

7. A name may be expunged which has never been clearly defined. (*Swainson.*)

Unless a group is defined by description or figures when the name is given, it cannot be recognised by others; and the signification of the name is consequently lost. On this ground, many of Dr. Leach's genera were justly expunged, as they existed only in his own MSS. Many collectors of shells and fossils are in the habit of labelling those species which they do not find described, with names of their own invention; but, unless they publish descriptions of these new species, they cannot expect these names to stand.

These are the rules which concern *established* names. We will consider,

Secondly, Rules to be observed in naming *new* Species or Groups.

A. *General Rules which apply to Classes, Orders, Tribes, Families, Genera, and Species.*

8. A new group must have a new name, which has never before been given to any other group in zoology or botany.

A new species must have a name new to the genus. (*Swainson.*)

9. It is *desirable*, but not *essential*, that a name should have an etymological meaning. (See *Mag. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. VIII. p. 36.; and Vol. I. p. 129. n. s.)

10. Names should be taken either from the Latin or Greek languages. (*Swainson.*)

An exception may, however, be made in favour of *species* called by their names which are current in their native countries; such as *Coturnix argoóndah*, and *Halicora dugong*. Such names are of great use in identifying species.

11. The *meaning* of a name must imply some proposition which is true as applied to the object which it represents.

12. Names must not be borrowed from mythological, divine, historical, or moral terms. (*Willdenow, Swainson.*)

This is a good general rule, but admits of exceptions. (See *Swainson's Birds*, p. 233.)

13. Names should not be too long, even though classically compounded. (*Swainson.*)

14. The meaning of names should be founded on absolute characters, not on relative or comparative ones.

15. The name of a species or group should be taken from those characters which are most essential and distinctive, and not from such as belong equally to other cognate groups.

B. *Rules which apply to particular Cases.*

16. The names of tribes, families and subfamilies, should each have a distinctive termination. (*Swainson.*)

In consequence of the multiplicity of scientific terms, it is always desirable to assist the memory by indirect means, when it can be done without infringing the laws of nomenclature. In the case of genera and species, however, it is impossible to give a distinctive termination; and in that of classes and orders it is unnecessary, for they are so few, that the memory does not require this assistance. (See *Swainson*, p. 230.)

17. In zoology, genera should not be named after individuals. (*Guilting, Wood.*)

As this practice has prevailed in botany, it is better to avoid it in zoology, and thus afford an additional aid to the memory.

18. The names of families and subfamilies should be derived from the most typical genus in them. (*Swainson.*)

19. Generic names should, *in general*, be compounded of Greek words, and specific of Latin.

There seems no other reason for this, than that, as this practice has prevailed to a considerable extent, it serves to aid the memory.

20. Species may be occasionally named after persons, provided they have been distinguished in that peculiar department of zoology. (*Swainson.*)

This practice is liable to abuse, yet is often allowable, especially in large genera (e. g. *Ammonites*), where it is impossible to find an adjective which shall apply to each species exclusively.

21. The *best* specific names are short adjectives expressive of some *distinctive* character. They may be taken, 1st, from the form or colour, which is the best character for the purpose; 2dly, from the habits of the living animal; 3dly, from the size; 4thly, from the country. The two last characters are the least desirable for specific names, and should only be used when the others fail, and when a distinctive epithet can thus be obtained.

22. Specific names should be always written with a small initial letter; those of the higher groups with a capital.

This is so convenient a *memoria technica*, that, for the sake of it, I would disregard the otherwise inelegant appearance of the names *Cygnus bewickii*, *Tetrao scoticus*, *Simia satyrus*, &c.

ART. III. *On the Passerine Birds of Devonshire.* By EDWARD MOORE, M.D. F.L.S.

IN continuation of my catalogue of the birds of Devonshire, I transmit the following genera of the second order, *Pásseres*: among these will be found many rare migratory species, some of which breed here; and, also, some which may be termed only occasional visitors. Specimens of both might, doubtless, be more frequently obtained if greater attention were paid, and if landlords were less tenacious of allowing a gun to be carried in summer. Although I have anxiously looked out for a Devon specimen of the nightingale, I have been unable to succeed; and must, therefore, rest satisfied with the fact announced by Montagu, that he once heard it near Kingsbridge.

My object being merely to authenticate the individuals as Devon specimens, I do not enter into an account of the habits and manners of the species, as, in most cases, they are already known; but shall restrict myself to the mention of the names of those persons in my neighbourhood who now possess specimens of the rarer kinds.

ORDER II. PA'SSERES.

Fam. i. *Dentiróstres.*

Gen. LA'NIUS.

1. *Lanius excubitor*, Great shrike. Rare: one was seen in the

