

## A few old Ichneumonid genotypes.

By

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In the delicate questions of genotypes for the old genera there are no doubt improvements possible in the list presented in H. L. Viereck's »Type species of the genera of Ichneumon flies», Washington 1914.

To begin with the genus *Ichneumon* L., the Americans declare *manifestator* L. to be its genotype, »by designation of Latreille 1810». This is questionable, for Fabricius already in 1804 in his Syst. Piezatorum eliminated *manifestator* from *Ichneumon* to his new genus *Pimpla*. In Viereck's list *manifestator* is found to be the genotype also of *Pimpla*, »by designation of Curtis 1828». Consequently *Ichneumon* and *Pimpla* are considered isogenotypic, and the wellknown genus *Pimpla* ought to be called *Ichneumon*. Consulting Linné's works, we find that 1758 in Syst. Naturæ ed. 10 he included *Sirex* and *Xiphydria* as the first section (without special name) of *Ichneumon*. He eliminated, however, this section himself and made of it the genus *Sirex* already in Fauna Suecica ed. 2 of 1761. Linné had no intention of designating types, such an operation being not yet invented, but at the head of his restricted genus *Ichneumon* he had placed his most elegant species, *sugillatorius*, later included in the group *Coelichneumon* Thoms. I think this species has a better right as genotype than any one of those »designated» more or less at random by authors having very little special knowledge of the Ichneumonids.

The »wellknown» genus *Pimpla* was mentioned above, but I must state at once that this genus is not that of Fabricius 1804, but that of Gravenhorst 1829. This can be said with certainty, for Fabricius had clearly designated his genotypes, even if he never used the word »type». If we peruse the species lists of the new genera in Syst. Piezat., there will always be found one species in each genus having an elaborate description of the mouth-parts. It is well known that these parts were to Fabricius the very fundament of insect taxonomy, and accordingly there is



not the slightest doubt that he meant those species to be what is now called genotypes. For no other reason could he have laid such stress on producing what he thought to be accurate descriptions. This has been known for a long time and was well set forth by E. Bergroth in Ent. Nachr. 20, 1894, p. 197 while polemizing against the coleopterist G. v. Seidlitz.

Keeping this in mind, we shall soon see if *Pimpla* Fabricius is the same genus as *Ichneumon* Linné, even as interpreted by later authors. Fabricius' type is the new species *vagatoria*, in the Catalogue of Dalla Torre given as a synonym of *Megarhyssa superba* Schrank 1781 and in fact the ♂ of this magnificent species. Consequently *Megarhyssa* Ashm. must be called *Pimpla* F., while *Pimpla* Grav. can retain Viereck's name *Pimplidea*, and *Ichneumon* L. takes another genotype, in my opinion best *sugillatorius*, a wellknown and widespread species whose type is still existing.

Of Fabricius' other Ichneumonid genera, *Zoppa* and *Ophion* retain the genotypes stated by Viereck. So is also the case with *Banchus*, whose Fabrician genotype *venator* F. is the ♀ synonym of *falcatorius* F., and *Foenus* (*Gasteruption* Latr. 1796) whose genotype *jaculator* L. I have shown to be the same species as *Thomsoni* Schlett.

*Bracon* F. has the original genotype *denigrator* L. and accordingly must replace *Atanycolus* Först. It is another story that Fabricius probably did not know Linné's species, which belongs to the conifer forests, for he gives the colour »coccineo» to its abdomen instead of Linné's »testaceo» and thus seems to mean *Iphiaulax impostor* Scop. At any rate, the name *denigrator* L. is given and in my opinion has to be taken literally. The genotype of Viereck, *desertor* L. (*Cremnops*, *Braconidae*), can fortunately be rejected and the ensuing revolution in nomenclature be avoided. — *Cryptus* F. was, as shown by Morice & Durrant, a name stolen from Jurine and originally meaning a sawfly. But, like *Pimpla*, the name has become wellknown for an Ichneumonid genus. This genus, however, is not that of Fabricius but once more that of Gravenhorst, who used the older names rather much as he liked, notwithstanding the beautiful principles expressed in his preface. Fabricius took for genotype his new species *serratorius* from S. America, which judging from the description belongs to the Cryptine (Mesostenine), exclusively American genus *Christolia* Brullé. Thus the matter stands almost as badly as before and must probably claim the indulgence of the »nomina conservanda». — *Bassus* is another wellknown genus name whose meaning was changed, and this time totally, by Gravenhorst. While his genus is Tryphonine with its species parasitizing in Diptera, Fabricius has chosen as type his *seductorius* (= *seductor* Scop. 1786), a Cryptine



of the genus *Acrorhincus* Ratz., whose species parasitize the wasp genus *Eumenes*. This seems to open the way for another revolution in nomenclature. If *Cryptus* is rejected as an Ichneumonid genus, *Bassus* has to fill the vacancy and the name of the subfam. *Cryptinae* must become *Bassinæ*, *Bassus* of course superseding *Acrorhincus*. The traditional genus *Bassus* Grav. according to Dalla Torre should be called *Diplazon* (Nees) Grav.

In the following list are condensed some of the more important results of the discussion above:

*Bassus* F. non Grav. — Genotype: *seductorius* F. (*Acrorhincus* Ratz.)

*Bracon* F. — Genotype: *denigrator* L. (*Atanycolus* Först.)

*Cryptus* F. non Jur. nec Grav. — Genotype: *serratorius* F. (*Christolia* Br.)

*Ichneumon* L. — Desirable genotype: *sugillatorius* L.

*Pimpla* F. non Grav. — Genotype: *vagatoria* F. (*Megarhyssa* Ashm. = *M. superba* Schrk ♂).

**Anslag till fortsättande av kampanjen mot barkborrarna i de stormhärjade skogarna.** K. Maj:t har den 26 januari på framställning av föreståndaren för Statens skogsforsökanstalts entomologiska avdelning för budgetåret 1932—1933 anvisat ett belopp av 7,750 kronor att användas för skogsinsekternas fortsatta bekämpande under entomologiska avdelningens överinseende.

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