

Status of type-species designations in the “Zoological Record”

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Since 1931, fixation of the type species for newly described genera and subgenera has been obligatory (Code, Art. 13.3). Even if all the criteria of availability, except the fixation of the type species, are met in the original description, the name will remain unavailable until its type species will be designated. After this act, the genus-group name becomes available and receives the authorship and date of this act (Arts. 10.1.1, 50.1). Type designations in literature-recording publications (e.g., “Zoological Record”) are acceptable (Art. 69.1.2). Nomenclatural acts published after 1950 anonymously are unavailable (Art. 14); those published before this date are available, and their author(s) should be indicated as Anonym(s).

Cases when the type species of a generic or subgeneric name proposed after 1930 was first given in the “Zoological Record” are not particularly rare. No less than 10 such names in Crustacea, Pantopoda, Coleoptera, Heteroptera and Diptera are known to the author, and the actual number is certainly much higher, possibly running to several hundred. It is immaterial whether such type designation was intentional or resulted from mistakes of compilers (recorders), but after 1950 it is of primary importance whether the authorship of the respective portion of the “Zoological Record” was indicated or not.

In volumes 68-107 of the “Zoological Record” (for the years 1931-1970), the authorship of each section was indicated, with the number of authors varying from one to eight and sometimes with specification of groups for which they were responsible. The section(s) dealing with the insects in the volumes for the years 1931-1965 are an exception to this. Here no individual author was indicated (“by Imperial Institute of Entomology”, later on “by Commonwealth Institute of Entomology”). In volume 103 (for 1966), the authorship was given as “staff of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology and the following staff of the Zoological Society of London”, with 7 persons of the latter staff listed individually, and in the next four volumes (for 1967-1970), 9 to 12 compilers of the insect sections were indicated. Starting with volume 108 (for the year 1970, published in 1974-1975), no individual authors of sections were indicated for either group of animals: only the whole “Zoological Record staff” including numerous editors and recorders. I consider that volume 108 and all the following were published anonymously.

Hence, the status and authorship of generic and subgeneric names published after 1930, whose type species have been first given in the “Zoological Record”, are as follows:

Group of animals	Zoological Records			Availability of name	Author(s) of name
	Vols	Covered years	Published in		
Insecta	68-84	1931-1947	1932-1950	Provided	Anonyms
	85-102	1948-1965	1951-1968	Not provided	–
	103-107	1966-1970	1970-1974	Provided	Specified
	108-	1971-	1975-	Not provided	–
Other animals	68-107	1931-1970	1932-1973/5	Provided	Specified
	108-	1971-	1974/5-	Not provided	–