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CONTENTS

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possibility that typical *carolina* may result from a preponderance of yellow suffusion, leaving the dark ground in the form of scattered spots.

Holotype ♂, allotype ♀, in Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; paratype ♂ and ♀, American Museum of Natural History, New York; paratype ♂ in collection of E. L. Bell; all of these from type locality, Suffolk, Virginia, July 22-24, 1925. Paratype ♂, Southern Pines, North Carolina, VII.28.1911, in the Barnes collection; four paratypes retained in the collection of the author, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ of type locality and date; 1 ♂, Summerville, South Carolina, IV.20.1907; 1 ♀, Southern Pines, North Carolina, VII.28.1911.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IX.

Problema bulenta Bdl.-Lec., 1, 1a, male; 2, 2a, female.
Amblyscirtes carolina Skinner, 5, 5a, female (paratype).
Amblyscirtes carolina reversa Jones, 3, 3a, male; 4, female.

Thomas Lincoln Casey as a Coleopterist.

By MELVILLE H. HATCH,[1] University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

(Continued from page 179.)

Furthermore, Casey had little regard or interest for the bibliographical aspect of his subject. In one connection (20:3) he purposely refrained from considering previous work, since he "preferred to work out as nearly as possible an original scheme, which by comparison with the others, will furnish additional coordinated data to aid future students in this very difficult subject" (the American Platyninae). He was criticized in Germany for such omission, and replied that he was too much concerned with the study of nature to spend much time in learning what others have written before him (08:163-165). This attitude was the more remarkable in that he had assembled a coleopterological library of unusual completeness.

Several of the more important attacks on his procedure may be mentioned. Walther Horn, in his review of Casey's activity

[1] Contribution from the Zoölogical Laboratory of the University of Michigan.

in the Cicindelidae in the Genera Insectorum in 1915 (pp. 369-70, 443), expresses his opinion in no uncertain terms. Out of 99 new names, 50 of them proposed by Casey as species, he finds 86 superfluous, and the remaining thirteen are no more than races. Of 19 new forms described in 1914, 11 of them as species, he says that three-fourths are local races and the remainder synonyms. Out of about 150 names proposed in Buprestidae in 1909, exactly six are retained as valid in Leng's *Catalogue* (1920:177-181), the work being that of A. S. Nicolay, W. J. Chamberlain and Leng himself. Out of 34 names proposed in 1912 in *Orthosoma* and *Prionus,* Leng retains four as valid (1920:266). Casey naturally resented these attacks, especially where the men responsible had not seen his types. He insisted that no adequate estimate of his activities was possible without reference to his material, and intimated his willingness to have his types consulted (08:393).

His interests were all in the direction of analysis. A species for him was an extremely limited group admitting little or no variation. He took evolution seriously. He decried as attacks on the inviolability of the binomial nomenclature the tendency of such scientists as Walther Horn in Cicindelidae and Hans Roeschke in Cychrini to form trinomial and quadrinomial names (08:38-41). He was not at all in sympathy with the tendency of these authors to regard a species as a group of organisms extending over a considerable area and involving numerous subspecies and varieties, each in its turn including a considerable range of individual variation. This was loose thinking. These groups were for him subgenera. Casey would have said that he could not be sure of the alleged relationship and that, until he was, the only thing he was justified in doing was to describe the several "taxonomic units" as so many entities. Casey is never impressed by the nearness of a relationship. For him a species is "not at all closely related" to any other species or "extremely isolated."

The same principle that he applied to species he applied to genera. Here, especially in such groups as the Pterostichini and Platynini, his criterion seems to have been an habitudinal one, as opposed to the more structural ones, involving definite

variations of mouth-parts or some such structure. *Bembidion* (369 species) and *Harpalus* (117 species) bear witness to the fact that large genera in themselves were not objectionable to him. In the last analysis, a genus was a matter of personal opinion (85:335).

Casey's position on matters of nomenclature may be summed up as follows: (1) The necessity for adequate descriptions. Types at best, will hardly outlast more than a few centuries, a description "printed in unalterable carbon, . . . will endure for unlimited time, if not in its original shape, at least in . . . photolithographic reproduction" (89:323). The value of figures he recognized, but except in his first paper he never overcame the technical difficulties connected with their preparation. Casey looked forward to the time, several centuries hence, when even his descriptions would be regarded as utterly inadequate, when the absolute and not merely the relative measurement of every portion of the exoskeleton of even the most minute specimens, would be required. (2) The inviolability of the generic name: In whatever form it was first proposed, regardless of good or bad philology or other errors of transcription, provided only that it was pronounceable, in that form it must be retained (example, *Bembidion*, *Monochamus*). (3) The inadvisability of trinomials and polynomials, at least until detailed investigation gives proof of the affinity of the forms. (4) The admissibility of specific or other descriptions, regardless of the language in which they are written.

Casey must be regarded as a prophet of the infinite complexity of taxonomic coleopterology. He started out with the certainty that he could describe species. He described for forty years, and was on the verge of intellectual bankruptcy when he died. He had begun to see things that he could not describe. The failure to provide keys to the tribes of Barinae (22:3) and the statement in the introduction to his last work (24:1), that in certain cases "a mere description, however carefully drawn up, often fails to afford certainty of identification, it being necessary to make direct comparison with types," can be interpreted in no other way. Casey was a prophet, but whether true or false, the future only will disclose—a future of

which he was not unmindful and of whose verdict he was entirely unafraid.

With the utmost concern for posterity, his collection and library were left to the National Museum in Washington. There a special room was provided for their reception, which Mrs. Casey, who survived her husband, generously equipped with two binocular microscopes and adorned with a portrait in oil of the famous coleopterist. There future students may continue the study of the problems in which Casey was so deeply interested.

In writing the above the author has drawn freely from Leng's (1925) and Schwarz and Mann's (1925) obituary notices. It should be pointed out that the present study is based entirely on published material, and it is entirely possible that a study of correspondence and other original documents would necessitate a modification of portions of this paper.

CHRONOLOGY.

Year	Age	
1857		Born, West Point, N. Y. (Feb. 19).
1874-75	17-18	Sheffield Scientific School.
1875-79	18-22	West Point.
1879	22	Second Lieutenant (June 13).
1881	24	First Lieutenant (June 17).
1882-83	25-26	Assistant Astronomer with Transit of Venus Expedition to Cape of Good Hope.
1883	26	Death of Leconte (Nov. 15). Publication of Leconte and Horn: *Class. of Col. of No. Amer.*
1884	27	First publications: Cucujidae, Contributions, Stenini. Residence in Philadelphia.
1885	28	Henshaw: *List of Col. of Amer. No. of Mex.*
1885-86	28-29	In California, published in Cal. Ac. Sci. (1885-87).
1886	29	On Greer County Commission, Texas.
1888	31	Captain (July 23); residence in Newport, R. I.
1888-93	31-36	Residence in New York.
1889-97	32-40	*Coleopterological Notices.* I-VII. (N. Y. Acad. Sci.)
1890	33	Purchase of Levette Cabinet.
1895	38	Third Supplement to Henshaw's list.
1895-99	38-42	Residence in Virginia (Norfolk, Fort Monroe).

1897	40	Death of George H. Horn (Nov. 24).
1898	41	Married Laura Welsh of Philadelphia (June 1); Major (July 5); stationed at Hampton Roads, Va.
1898-1900	41-43	Published in Jr. N. Y. Ent. Soc. (Cisidae, Coccinellidae, Dermestidae, etc.)
1901	44	Residence at Vicksburg, Miss.
1902-06	45-49	Mississippi River Commission, residence apparently at St. Louis.
1905-06	48-49	Published in Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis (Staphylinidae).
1906	49	Lieutenant Colonel (Sept. 26).
1906-10	49-53	Member and engineering secretary of Light House Board.
1907	50	Residence at Washington, D. C., after this year.
1907-09	50-52	Published in Wash. Acad. Sci. (Tenebrionidae, Buprestidae).
1909	52	Colonel (Sept. 21).
1910	53	Blatchley: *Coleoptera of Indiana.*
1910-24	53-67	*Memoirs on the Coleoptera I-XI.*
1912	55	Retired (Mar. 1).
1916	59	Blatchley and Leng: *Rhynchophora of N. E. Amer.*
1920	63	Leng: *Catalogue of Coleoptera of America North of Mexico.*
1925	67	Died, Washington, D. C. (Feb. 3).

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