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Ergebnisse des 2. Innsbrucker Lepidopterologengesprächs vom 4./5. Oktober 1980 zum Thema "Die purpuralis-Gruppe des Genus *Zygaena* Fabricius, 1775 (Subgenus *Mesembrynus* Hübner, [1819]) II. (Lepidoptera, Zygaenidae)

On the validity of the genus-group name
Mesembrynus Hübner, [1819]

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Abstract

Although the genus-group name *Hesychia* HÜBNER, [1819] has page priority over *Mesembrynus* HÜBNER, [1819], it is shown that the action of Reiss (1958), who used *Mesembrynus* in preference to *Hesychia*, fulfills the requirements of the "first reviser principle" of the International Code. It follows that *Mesembrynus* HÜBNER, [1819] is to be considered a valid name with *Hesychia* HÜBNER, [1819] a junior subjective synonym.

Zusammenfassung

Obwohl der Gattungsgruppenname *Hesychia* HÜBNER, [1819] seitenmäßig prioritätsberechtigt gegenüber *Mesembrynus* HÜBNER, [1819] ist, wird nachgewiesen, daß die Handhabung

von Reiss (1958), der dem Namen *Mesembrynus* gegenüber *Hesychia* den Vorzug gab, den Anforderungen des Prinzips des ersten revidierenden Autors der Internationalen Regeln für die Zoologische Nomenklatur entspricht. Daraus folgt, daß *Mesembrynus* HÜBNER, [1819] als gültiger Name mit *Hesychia* HÜBNER, [1819] als jüngeres subjektives Synonym geführt wird.

Dujardin (1973:151; 1974:45) considered *Mesembrynus* HÜBNER, [1819]:119, to be a junior synonym of *Hesychia* HÜBNER, [1819]:116, because the latter has page priority over the former, both having been published together in the same work in 1819. However, this action is contrary to that of Reiss (1958), Alberti (1958-59) and Reiss & Tremewan (1967), who used *Mesembrynus* in preference to *Hesychia*. The opinion of Dujardin (loc. cit.) has subsequently been disregarded by the majority of *Zygaena* specialists and by others (for example, the recently published French check list of Lepidoptera compiled by Leraut (1980: 54), a non-*Zygaena* specialist, also used *Mesembrynus* in preference to *Hesychia*).

Holík (1937:36; 1953:183) placed *Hesychia* as a subgenus of *Zygaena* FABRICIUS, 1775, to include a single species, *Zygaena (Hesychia) laeta* (HÜBNER, 1790). *Sphinx laeta* HÜBNER, 1790, was one of the originally included species in *Hesychia* and subsequently was validly designated as its type-species by Holík & Sheljuzhko (1953:219; see also Tremewan, 1961: 201; 1973:129).

Reiss (1958) subdivided the genus *Zygaena* into three subgenera, viz. *Mesembrynus* HÜBNER, [1819], *Agrumenia* HÜBNER, [1819], and *Zygaena* FABRICIUS, 1775, and reduced the remaining subgenera to sections. *Hesychia* (with the species *laeta*) was placed (Reiss, 1958:156) as a section of *Mesembrynus*. Quite independently and almost simultaneously, Alberti (1958:327), in a major revision of the tribe *Zygaenini*, placed *Hesychia* in synonymy under *Mesembrynus*, for he also recognized only three subgenera in *Zygaena*, viz. *Agrumenia*, *Zygaena* and *Mesem-*

brynus. The type-species of *Hesychia* was cited by A l - b e r t i (1958:330) as *Zygaena (Mesembrynus) laeta* HÜBNER. Although R e i s s & T r e m e w a n (1967:1) were aware that *Hesychia* has page priority over *Mesembrynus* they chose to maintain the latter as a valid name, in the interest of stability, and therefore retained *Hesychia* as a synonym.

The action of R e i s s (1958) fulfills the requirements of the "first reviser principle" as stipulated in Article 24 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1964), which reads as follows.

Article 24. Interpretation of oldest name. —

(a) Names published simultaneously. — If more than one name for a single taxon, or identical names for different taxa, are published simultaneously, whether in the same or different works, their relative priority is determined by the action of the first reviser.

(i) The expression "first reviser" is to be rigidly construed. In the case of synonyms, an author must have cited two or more such names, must have made it clear that he believes them to represent the same taxonomic unit, and must have chosen one as the name of the taxon.

It appears that D u j a r d i n (1973:151; 1974:45) has overlooked the first reviser principle; therefore it follows that *Mesembrynus* HÜBNER, [1819], is to be considered a valid name with *Hesychia* HÜBNER, [1819], as a junior subjective synonym.

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