

# On the papers “Systema Glossatorum...” of Fabricius (1807) and “Die neueste Gattungs-Eintheilung der Schmetterlinge...” of Illiger (1807) and the consequences for authorship of several generic names

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**Summary.** The examination of the original of the paper “Die neueste Gattungs-Eintheilung der Schmetterlinge...” revealed, that the author of it is Illiger and not Fabricius as stated in the “Official Lists and Indexes of Names and Works in Zoology” (Melville & Smith 1987: 314). As a contribution to the stability of the names in the sense of the rules of the ICZN we propose to use the authorship for the genera as follows: [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807.

**Zusammenfassung.** Die Prüfung der Arbeit “Die neueste Gattungs-Eintheilung der Schmetterlinge...” am Original hat ergeben, dass sie von Illiger und nicht von Fabricius stammt, wie das in den “Official Lists and Indexes of Names and Works in Zoology” (Melville & Smith 1987: 314) vermerkt ist. Als Beitrag zur Stabilität der Namen im Sinne der Regeln der ICZN wird vorgeschlagen, für die Gattungen die Autorenschaft [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807 zu verwenden.

**Résumé.** Un examen du travail „Die neueste Gattungs-Eintheilung der Schmetterlinge ...“ a révélé que l’auteur en est Illiger et non Fabricius, ainsi qu’il est rapporté dans les „Official Lists and Indexes of Names and Works in Zoology“ (Melville & Smith 1987: 314). Afin de contribuer à la stabilité des noms en conformité aux règles du Code, nous proposons d’établir comme auteur pour les genres concernés: [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807.

**Key words.** Nomenclature, Lepidoptera, generic names, authorship, Fabricius, Illiger

In Opinion 137 (ICZN, 1942) three generic names of butterflies (*Morpho*, *Helicopsis*, and *Pontia*) attributed to Fabricius were given precedence over names published by Hübner. The “Official Lists and Indexes of Names and Works in Zoology” (Melville & Smith 1987) on p. 314 states: “Fabricius, (J. C.), 1807, ‘Die neueste Gattungs-Eintheilung der Schmetterlinge aus den Linnéischen Gattungen *Papilio* und *Sphinx*.’ Mag. f. Insektenk. (Illiger) 6: 277 - 295. (under the ruling given in Opinion 137 generic names published in that paper are to take precedence over any names published for the same genera earlier in 1807 by Hübner (J.) on the legends to plates in Volume 1 of the work entitled *Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge*). Direction 4.”

Having examined the original we found that the author of that paper is not Fabricius as stated in Opinion 137 but Illiger. The paper is anonymous (i.e. without stated author); however, there is ample indirect evidence that all unattributed papers in the “Magazin für Insektenkunde” are by Illiger himself.

This is in agreement with Bryk (1938b, 1939) who discussed the problem of Fabricius’ “Systema Glossatorum” in detail (see also Zinken 1831, Hagen 1862-63, Horn & Schenkling 1928-29, Tuxen 1967).

According to Bryk (l. c.) Illiger most likely was in possession of the manuscript of Fabricius' "Systema Glossatorum". Illiger published, probably without Fabricius' permission, the generic names which are proposed in this manuscript. Not only did he translate the Latin manuscript into German ("Ich liefere die Gattungsmerkmale von Fabricius treu verdeutscht"), but he also added characters which are not used by Fabricius ("füge aus der Beschreibung des Körperbaues die Angabe von der Fussbildung hinzu"). Furthermore, he did not accept the changes of several specific names which Fabricius intended to publish ("Ich habe die Artnamen der Ent. Systematica beibehalten; in dem Systema Glossatorum werden sie häufig mit andern, besonders mit den von der Pflanze genommenen Namen vertauscht, auf der die Raupe lebt.")

Subsequent to Illiger (1807) Zinken (1831) was the first who mentioned the "Systema Glossatorum". He explained that the paper in question was never issued, and that the seven sheets already printed did not leave the printing office in an official way. He named it as "Fabricii systema Glossatorum inedita". At least four copies of the printed part of the whole publication (7 printed sheets) left the printing office: one copy was obtained by Zinken ("...Diese sieben Bogen, von welchen ein Exemplar vom allgemeinen Untergange zu retten, ein glücklicher Zufall mir Gelegenheit gegeben hat..."), the existence of three others is indicated in Tuxen (1967): "Ein Exemplar, wie oben mit Titelblatt, in der Bibliothek des Zoologischen Museums zu Berlin [the facsimile of Bryk was made from this copy]; ein zweites, ohne Titelblatt, mit p. III-XII, 13-112, in der Königlichen Bibliothek in Kopenhagen [this is the copy mentioned by Hagen (1862: 222) to be in the library of Dohrn]; ein drittes, nur p. 1-80 im American Museum of Natural History, New York." One additional copy was in the hands of Illiger, maybe it is the one now in the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin.

It is clear, that the paper sheets of Fabricius are not a published paper in the sense of the rules of the ICZN (Art. 8.1.2.). The first published version of the paper is by Illiger, in which he used the first seven sheets of Fabricius' text. This is why the indication in the "Official List and Indexes of Names and Works in Zoology" (Melville & Smith 1987: 314) is to be changed. The correct citation is:

[Illiger, J. C. M.] 1807: Die neueste Gattungs-Eintheilung der Schmetterlinge aus den Linnéischen Gattungen Papilio und Sphinx. - Magazin für Insektenkunde (Illiger) 6: 277 - 295.

As a consequence it would be necessary to use the generic names listed below with the author as Illiger instead of Fabricius, an alteration to previous use. As a contribution to the stability of the names in the sense of the rules we propose to use the generic names as follows:

*Acraea* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, Magazin für Insektenkunde (Illiger) 6: p. 284;

*Aegeria* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 288;

*Amata* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 289;

*Amathusia* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 279;

*Argynnis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 283;

*Apatura* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 280;

- Biblis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 281;  
*Brassolis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 282;  
*Castnia* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 280;  
*Cethosia* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 280;  
*Colias* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 284;  
*Cynthia* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 281;  
*Danis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 286;  
*Doritis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 283;  
*Emesis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 287;  
*Erycina* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 286 (a homonym of *Erycina* Lamarck, 1805);  
*Euploea* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 280;  
*Glaucopis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 289 (a homonym of *Glaucopis* Gmelin, 1788);  
*Haetera* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 284;  
*Helias* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 287;  
*Helicopis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 285;  
*Hipparchia* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 281;  
*Idea* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 283;  
*Laothoe* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 287-288;  
*Libythea* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 284;  
*Limenitis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 281;  
*Lycaena* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 285-286;  
*Mechanitis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 284;  
*Melanitis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 282;  
*Melitaea* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 284-285;  
*Morpho* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 280;  
*Myrina* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 286;  
*Neptis* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 282;  
*Nymphidium* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 286;  
*Pamphila* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 287;  
*Paphia* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 282 (a homonym of *Paphia* Bolton, 1798);  
*Pontia* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 283;  
*Procris* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 289;  
*Thais* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 283 (a homonym of *Thais* Bolton, 1798);  
*Thecla* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 286;  
*Thymele* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 287;  
*Urania* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 279;  
*Vanessa* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 281;  
*Zelima* [Fabricius in Illiger], 1807, l. c.: p. 279 (a homonym of *Zelima* Meigen, 1800).

It is worth mentioning that Bryk (1938a) issued a facsimile of the copy which is housed in the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin. Though published 130 years after Fabricius' death, this facsimile made the "Systema Glossatorum" available in the sense of the rules.

As he considered the original copy of 1807 to be available, Bryk (1930) listed several specific names with reference to Fabricius (1807) in synonymy. Although presented at

the VIIth Int. Congress of Entomology in Berlin in 1938, the reprint (Bryk 1938a) went mainly unnoticed (e. g. it was never registered in the "Zoological Record").

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