RECENT ENTOMOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

GENERA INSECTORUM: CHIRONOMIDAE. BY DR. J. J. KIEFFER.

The forty-second part of Wystman's Genera Insectorum, written by Dr. J. J. Kieffer, which has just appeared, deals with the Chironomidae. While there are no startling innovations in classification, the author has erected several new genera by division of some of the older ones. The family is divided into five subfamilies: the Clunioiniae, Tanypiniae, Chironominae, Ceratopogoninae, and Stenoxeninae. The second, third and fourth subfamilies correspond approximately to Meigen's genera, Tanypus, Chironomus, and Ceratopogon. The position of Diamesa among the Tanypiniae may be questioned, for both larval and imaginal characters point to a much closer relationship to Orthocladius and Thalassomyia among the Chironominae. The family Stenoxenidae is here reduced to subfamily rank under the Chironomidae, thus following Aldrich. Wulpiella is made a synonym of Metriocnemus; four subgenera are erected under Orthocladius; Diamesa is broken up into two genera, Prodiamesa and Diamesa, the latter with two subgenera; Psilotanypus is separated from Procladius; Protanypus from Anatopynia, and Trichatanypus from Tanypus. In the subfamily Ceratopogoninae, Heteromyia and Serromyia have been raised to generic rank, while Ceratopogon, Bezzia, and Palpomyia each have two or three subgenera under them.

Considering the extent of the work, very few errors of either omission or commission can be found. The following, of interest to American readers, may be noted. Orthocladius fugax cannot belong to the subgenus Dactylocladius since it is said to have hairy eyes; Diamesa nivoriunda Fitch (p. 36) should be omitted (See Bul. N. Y. State Museum No. 86, p. 274, line 15); Tanypus steinenii Gercke is not North American; Culicoides scutellatus Meigen is classed with both Culicoides and Ceratopogon; Bezzia venustula is listed with both Ceratolophus and Bezzia; Ceratolophus pictus seems to be omitted; and Thalassomyia fusca (No. 3, p. 14) should be omitted; it is the same as Th. obscura and the name is due to a lapsus memoriae on the part of its author. The name Ceratolophus is preoccupied and should be changed. The four plates which show figures of wings and other details of structure are excellent, in many cases better than the originals from which they are copied.

The paper is a noteworthy contribution to the study of the Chironomidae, and the author, Dr. Kieffer, is to be congratulated upon its excellent arrangement and fine appearance.

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