

ON THE GENUS *LECANIUM*.

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In the preparation of my Catalogue of the Coccidæ I was not able to find where Illiger had proposed or described the genus *Lecanium*, although Burmeister in his Handbook of Entomology, Vol. II., p. 69 (1835), used this genus, giving Illiger as the authority. Burmeister described the genus and placed under it *hesperidum*, Linn., and several other species. My husband, Prof. C. H. Fernald, wrote to Mr. Theodore Pergande, inquiring if he could give me any information whether Illiger had really published this genus, and if so where it could be found. Mr. Pergande has sent the following letter in reply, and has consented to have it published :

"My dear Professor,—In accordance with my promise of December 9, 1901, regarding the authority for the genus *Lecanium*, I wrote to Dr. K. Mobius, Director of the Zoological Museum of Berlin, Germany, for information on this point, and received lately from Dr. Th. Kuhlitz, Assistant in the Museum, the following answer :

"In answer to your request, I inform you herewith that the generic name *Lecanium*, Illiger, in Burmeister's Handbook, Vol. II., was doubtless the first publication of this name ; a name which Illiger, prior to Burmeister's publication, had either written on some label or used in some manuscript which was never published.

"At any rate, I have failed to find anything in the literature pertaining to this genus, which would justify us to accept Illiger as the author.

"I wish to call your attention to the fact that Burmeister frequently credited the authorship for specimens to someone else, notwithstanding that the first publication of such species was made by himself.

"For instance, he credited the authorship of *Colobatristes macronatus*, Handbuch II., p. 325, which was described by him for the first time, not to himself, but to Klug. The label of the type in the Berlin Museum explains it fully. The label shows neither the name of Burmeister nor of Klug, as being the author, but simply "N," behind the name of the