

## THE CHALCID GENUS RILEYA.

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My good friend Mr. Howard, in his article entitled "The Chalcid Genus Riley," published in the October CAN. ENT., p. 191, makes several inaccurate statements; and, in the lines "An interesting interference in the adoption of the generic name Riley has recently taken place between Mr. Ashmead and myself," implies that I knowingly appropriated this name for a genus in the *Eurytominae*, after he had decided to use it for one in the *Encyrtinae*, when I had no such knowledge, thereby placing me in an unenviable position before my colleagues.

For the guidance of those who will have to settle this question, I must state that my description of the *Eurytomid* genus Riley was drawn up and forwarded to Prof. E. A. Popenoe for publication about the last of November, 1887, and a synoptic characterization of the genus appeared in the *Entomologica Americana* for June 1888, although the full description of the genus was not published, as stated by Mr. Howard, until afterwards—about July 5th, one month later; still, both of these descriptions were published three or four months ahead of Mr. Howard's.

The opinion, expressed by Mr. Howard, that because the name Riley is given in my synopsis of the *Eurytominae*, "*not as a new genus, but as one already described, and the few words given to it in the table fail to sufficiently characterize it,*" is a matter of surprise to me, for the characters given definitely separate it from all other *Eurytomids*, the characters are too unique among the *Eurytominae* to be mistaken, and as to whether it was indicated as a new genus "has nothing to do with the case." I might have indicated the genus without my name, or in the usual way—*nov. gen., mihi, et cetera*, yet the genus would hold.

As I have before stated, I had no knowledge of Mr. Howard's intention to dedicate a genus to Dr. Riley, and I regret that such knowledge was withheld from me, so that a controversy of this kind could have been avoided. The first intimation that I had of his intention to do so was on receipt of my July number of the *Entomologica Americana*, received, I think, about July 12th, and several months after my description of the genus had been forwarded to Prof. Popenoe; and just one month after the publication of my "Revised Generic Synopsis of the *Eurytominae*."