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THE SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF INSECTS.

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Every effort to render the present hotch-potch of Entomological names more correct and elegant is welcome to students of the Natural Sciences whose knowledge of the classic tongues is sufficient to render the ear sensitive to the grating jargon of many of our so-called Latin terms. I was therefore pleased to see Mr. Hulst's article in a late number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST. He has raised one point that has been little noticed, but well deserves attention.

Having had some experience in the difficulties of scientific terminology, especially when engaged in drawing up a chapter on the subject for Mr. Miller's Catalogue of North American Fossils, I am induced to send a few lines on the subject.

With almost all Mr. Hulst's remarks I fully agree. On one point, however, I think that to follow out the advice given would lead to very great confusion. This would nevertheless be no valid objection were the advice itself beyond all question sound. But the argument supporting it appears to me not so. I refer to the following passage: "A feminine name must not be joined to a masculine noun. It is just the same as saying 'the girl John' to utter such a combination as *Melitaea phaethon*" (not *phaeton*) "or *Danais archippus*. We must or ought to write and say *Melitaea phaethona*" (not *phaetona*) "*Danais archippa*, and so on through the list."

So long is the list of scientific names that would come under condemnation were the sentence here pronounced carried into effect, that it is worth while to consider if it is absolutely necessary to enforce so stern a decree to the very letter.