

## ON THE TERMINOLOGY OF DIPTERA.

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DIPTERA have so much in common with other orders of insects that the terms applied to the latter, which I may consider as generally known, may frequently be used for the former. I have therefore merely to explain those terms which, on account of the peculiar organization of Diptera, are either applied solely to the insects of this order or are used in a more or less modified sense. It is well known, how little the various authors agree in the choice of these terms, and how many of them seem to find pleasure in departing as much as possible from the terms used by their predecessors. This is a great evil, aggravating the difficulty of understanding Dipterological publications, and impeding the progress of Dipterology. It would take too much space to explain all the terms used by different authors, and I confine myself to those only which seem the most necessary and which I have used in this publication. The following considerations have guided me in their choice. I think it a duty of a later author to accommodate himself to the usage of his predecessors, especially those who have written standard works, and at the same time to reconcile them as much as possible where they differ from each other. The indispensable innovations should be introduced only gradually and in conformity with the established usage, since in such matters an agreement about the terms chosen is more important than the mode of selecting them. Meigen, Wiedemann, and Fallen in earlier times, Zetterstedt and Macquart more recently, have in that respect a claim to our attention. It has therefore been my object to assume the position of an arbiter between them, and to avoid such terms as depart entirely from the adopted usage, except in cases in which I might differ so much from my predecessors as to become unintelligible if restrained by their terminology.

The *head* has a hinder plane opposite to the thorax, called occi-