

SYNONYMICAL AND OTHER NOTES ON COLEOPTERA.

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The fact that some important catalogues of the Coleoptera of the world are about to be published, renders it desirable to afford all the aid possible to the compilers of these lists, by making known such apparent synonymy relating to published species, as may have come to light since their appearance in the literature of the subject. The writer has therefore endeavoured to do his part, as far as the course now seems clear and evident to him, in the following notes.

The recent catalogue of the Staphylinid genera by Dr. Eichelbaum (Mem. Soc. Ent. Belg., XVII) is a very welcome summary, although personally, my position is undesirably conspicuous in regard to the number of generic names proposed, and I had hoped to be overshadowed in this respect by some other specialists in the family. A reduction of the number ascribed to the writer is therefore in order, although some already reduced to synonymy, such as *Eumitocerus* Say., which is a synonym of *Trichophya*, are restored by Dr. Eichelbaum inadvertently, and one, at least, reduced by the compiler, i.e. *Myrmobiota*, will have to be restored to full generic rank, as it has very little to do with *Homœusa*. Dr. Eichelbaum would also have done well to place *Liparocephalus* in the Aleocharinæ near *Phytosus*, which is its true systematic position.

In regard to emendations, the author has been very liberal; but, in my opinion, no generic word should be emended at all. Generic words are not a part of language to any greater extent than the x, y, z of algebra. They are merely pronounceable symbols formed by combinations of letters, although in many cases their derivation, or intended derivation, from certain words, either of classic or barbaric origin, is sufficiently evident. Not being strictly a part of language however, they should be withdrawn from rules of etymology, in order to protect them from possible emendators of diverging views;—that is if stability in the fundamentals of nomenclature is to be maintained. It is highly desirable, and ought to be compulsory, that the generic symbol should have an ending conforming to the Latin language, in order to determine gender in the specific word; but just how such a rule could be enforced is rather difficult to imagine. In the fixing of gender for species names the general Latin rule should be applied, but without those exceptions which always occur in actual