

THE GENERIC NAMES VATES AND THEOCLYTES.

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Recently the writer made the statement (Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., XXVII., p. 87) that the generic name *Theoclytes* was a synonym of *Vates*, the latter being the older by one year. A further examination has shown that the matter should have been examined closer. Three generic names are involved—*Vates*, Burmeister; *Theoclytes*, Serville, and *Pseudovates*, Saussure—the included species of each being as follows:

Vates, Burmeister.

V. cnemidotus, Burmeister = *subfoliata*, Stoll.

V. orbis, Illiger. } *Zooeca macroptera*, Stoll.
V. macropterus, Stoll. }

Theoclytes, Serville.

T. foliata, Licht. = *subfoliata*, Stoll.

T. undata, Fabricius = *Popa undata*, Fabricius.

T. chlorophæa, Blanchard.

Pseudovates, Saussure.

P. tolteca, Saussure.

The type of the genus *Vates* is therefore *subfoliata*, Stoll., the other two included species (synonymous) having been removed by Serville to his new genus, *Zooeca*, in 1839. As the species *subfoliata* was used by Burmeister (and is by elimination the type of the genus), it must be barred from consideration in the genus in which it was placed by Serville. The second species, *undata*, having been removed to another genus, the third, *chlorophæa*, must stand as the type. The last genus, *Pseudovates*, of Saussure, was based simply on *tolteca*, which is congeneric with *Vates*, and therefore the two are synonymous, unless the two types can be separated subgenerically, in which case the name *Pseudovates* is available for one. The revised generic names stand as in the following table:

Vates, Burmeister. Type, *V. subfoliata*, Stoll.

—— *Pseudovates*, Saussure.

Theoclytes, Serville. Type, *T. chlorophæa*, Blanchard.

While a few authors have followed almost the same pattern as this, the general tendency has been to distort the names by placing them to suit their fancy or their particular system of classification.