

MISCELLANEA

SYNONYMY IN CORETHRINAE.—Many recent authors have followed Theobald (Gen. Ins., Fasc. 26) (1905) in referring to *Sayomyia*, Coq., most of the species till recently incorporated under *Corethra*, Mg., but the American author's genus must give way, on his own admission,¹ to *Chaoborus*, Lichtenstein, established as long ago as 1800; so that a few synonymical notes may be useful.

Corethra, Mg. (1803), was originally erected (Illig. Mag., ii, 260) for the *Tipula culiciformis* of De Geer (1776); and for many years it contained only that species, with *pallida*, F. (1781), and *plumicornis*, F. (1794). It was not until 1823 that another species was added,—*punctipennis*, Say., followed by *flavicans*, Mg., in 1830 and others of more recent date.

Mochlonyx, Loew (1844), was formed for *Corethra velutina*, Ruthe, and to this genus has been added *effoetus*, Wlk., and actually *culiciformis*, De Geer (!), the very type species of *Corethra*; even Prof. Kertész, in his catalogue of the world's diptera (vol. i, 1902), making the same error.

Theobald (Gen. Ins.) admitted Corethrinae as a subfamily of Culicidae and correctly replaced *culiciformis* in *Corethra*, with *velutina* (*effoetus*, Wlk., being added as synonymous with this)² and a third, recently described species, *cinctipes*, Coq. Therefore, unless *velutina* can be generically separated from *culiciformis* (and I have no means of forming an opinion on this), *Mochlonyx* must sink in favour of *Corethra*, Mg.

Schiner (Fauna Austr., ii, 624) placed *velutina* and *effoetus* (the latter not described, not being Austrian) in *Mochlonyx*; and placed *culiciformis* (also undescribed for the same reason), with the names of five other undescribed non-Austrian species, after his description of the three Austrian species (*pallida*, *plumicornis* and *fusca*) of *Corethra*. It is quite possible that he may not have seen all these species, and therefore his generic separation of *velutina* and *culiciformis* may not have represented an individual opinion.

Chaoborus, Lichtenstein, was erected for "*antisepticus* sp. nov.," which proved synonymous with *crystallina*, De Geer, this latter, queried by Theobald (Gen. Ins.) as synonymous with *plumicornis*, F., being definitely given by Kertész as identical with it.

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 37, p. 603 (1910).

² As Mr. Theobald has presumably examined the type of Walker's species, some importance attaches to this opinion.

Now *plumicornis*, F., *pallida*, F., and *punctipennis*, Say. (a North American species), with others, are retained by Kertész under *Corethra*. This is obviously wrong, since Loew's principle in establishing *Mochlonyx* was a sound one, *i.e.*, "metatarsus several times shorter than the next tarsal joint," as contrasted with those species in which the metatarsus is longer than the 2nd tarsal joint.¹ The separation of these groups is justified: Loew lost his genus through unfortunately giving the name *Mochlonyx* to that group of species containing the type species of *Corethra*, Mg. Of course, in the days in which he wrote it was sometimes not easy to distinguish which species was intended by an author as the type of his genus² and this may have authorised him to split off any group, or particular species at will.

Corethra, Mg., must therefore always stand for *culiciformis*, with its congeners.

Coquillett in 1903 erected *Sayomyia* for "Corethra punctipennis" Say., which he admitted as congeneric with *plumicornis*, F. (the latter species possessing *crystallina*, De G., and others as synonyms), both of which species have now to be placed in *Chaoborus*.

The synonymy of the species immediately concerned will stand thus:—

Corethrinae (Subfamily of Culicidae.)

CORETHRA, Mg., 1803.

(*Mochlonyx*, Loew, 1844.)

1. *culiciformis*, De Geer (*Tipula id.*). TYPE of genus.
2. *velutina*, Ruthe (*Mochlonyx id.*, Loew; TYPE of *Mochlonyx*) (*effoetus* Wlk.).
3. *cinctipes*, Coq.

CHAOBORUS, Lichtenstein, 1800.

(*Sayomyia*, Coq., 1903.)

1. *plumicornis*, F. (*Tipula id.*). TYPE of genus.
2. *punctipennis*, Say. (TYPE of *Sayomyia*).
3. All other species referred to *Sayomyia* since Theobald's acceptance of the genus, but previously placed in *Corethra*.

The three other genera recorded by Theobald appear to me built on very weak characters and I should prefer to regard them as subgenera of *Chaoborus* only. Each contains but one species. They are *Pelorempis* (Joh.) *americana*, Joh., *Corethrella* (Coq.) *brakeleyi*, Coq., and *Eucorethra* (Underwood) *underwoodi*, Underw.

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¹ Theobald (Gen. Ins.) is distinctly wrong in terming the joint following the metatarsus as the first, since the *metatarsus itself is the 1st tarsal joint*, the succeeding joint being the *second*.

² I have seen it stated somewhere that Meigen placed what he considered all the most typical species in the middle of the genus, and those tending to aberration at one end or the other of it.