That Meigen's names are *nomina nuda*, as has been claimed, is clearly erroneous; each is accompanied by a description, which effectually removes them from this class of names.

Nor have these names been entirely neglected since they were first published in 1800. Latreille, in his "Histoire Naturelle des Crustacés et des Insectes," Vol. III, published only two years after Meigen's paper first appeared, used several of them as subgenera, and in giving a resume of Latreille's classification, Meigen himself connected most of them with his 1803 names (see his "Klassifikation und Beschreibung der europäischen zweiflügeligen Insekten," 1804, pages xv-xxiii).

Article 32 of the Code holds that "A generic or a specific name once published cannot be rejected, even by its author, because of inappropriateness." There is, therefore, no escaping the using of such of these names as are not synonyms or homonyms.

There are, and always have been, obstructionists in almost every field of science. Osten Sacken refused to use the old generic names of Rondani in the Cecidomyiidae, and Grote steadfastly rejected those proposed by Hübner in his "Tentamen"; yet both of these classes of names have since come into general use. Our individual preferences amount to but little; what the rank and file of the students of this and of future generations are going to do in the matter of nomenclature is all-important, and any effort to prevent others from following well-recognized rules and scientific usages cannot, by any method of reasoning, be regarded as being in the best interest of science.

SOME NOTES ON *METAPELMA SPECTABILIS*, WESTW.

BY CYRUS R. CROSBY, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, N. Y.

On August 12, 1907, I captured a male of this species on the window of the Insectary at Cornell University. While it agreed fairly well with Westwood's concise description given in Proc. Zool. Soc., Lond., III, p. 69, 1835, and in his Thesaurus Entomologicus Oxoniensis, p. 149, I could not make sure of its identity without having the female, as the description is evidently based upon that sex alone.

Through the kindness of Dr. E. P. Felt, of the New York State Museum, Dr. L. O. Howard, and the authorities of the United States National Museum, I now have before me eight males and seven females. Three of these specimens were determined by Dr. W. H. Ashmead.

Westwood's specimen was from Georgia, and as the description is inaccessible to many, it is here reproduced:

December, 1908

"*Metapelma spectabilis*.—Met. capite thoraceque viridibus, cupreonitentibus; antennis nigris; abdomine nigro, chalybæo purpureoque nitente; pedibus quatuor anticis ferrugineis viridi subnitentibus; tarsis intermediis fuscis ad basin albidis; pedibus duobus posticis fuscis femoribus basi rufis; tibiis basi albis; oviductu nigro; alis pone medium nubecula vix infumatis.

"Long. corp. lin. $2\frac{1}{4}$; oviductus, lin. 1; exp. alar. lin. $3\frac{3}{4}$."

Among the specimens before me the females vary in length from $3\frac{1}{4}$ – $4\frac{3}{4}$ mm., and the males from $2\frac{1}{2}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The length of the ovipositor is considerably less than that indicated by Westwood, being from .7–1.3 mm. The antennæ are inserted farther from each other than from the eye margin. The scape is greenish, with a metallic lustre. In both sexes the posterior femora vary from dusky to yellowish brown, there being no reddish at the base in these specimens. The white spot at the base of the posterior tibiæ is confined to the upper basal third, and is bounded by a straight diagonal line in most of the specimens; in two males from Florida and one male from Tuscon, Ariz., it surrounds the base; in a male from Santa Cruz Mts., Cal., and a female from Panamint Mts., Cal., the spot is shorter and broader, and bounded by a curved instead of a straight line. The specimens from Florida and the South-west have the posterior

FIG. 20.—Hind tibiæ of *Metapelma spectabilis*, Westw., showing variations in form and markings. (a) Female, Ilion, N. Y.; (b) male, Ithaca, N. Y.; (c) female, Panamint Mts., Cal.; (d) male, Santa Cruz Mts., Cal.

tibiæ more strongly dilated than the Eastern forms (Fig. 20); the Virginian forms have the white spot long and narrow as in the Northern specimens, while the tibiæ are intermediate in width.

The specimens examined by me are as follows:

1 ♂, 1 ♀, Albany, N. Y., May 7 and 11, 1903, reared from an ash stick infested by *Obrium rubrum*; 2 ♀'s, Ilion, N. Y., 10th June, 1902,

"reared from hickory limb bearing large black knots, and from which were reared *Dicerca lurida*, *Chrysobothris femoratus*, *Magdalis olya*, *Lepturges querci* and *Chramesus icoria*, the *Magdalis* being perhaps the more abundant." E. P. Felt *in lit.*; 1 ♀, Washington, D. C. (W. H. Ashmead); 1 ♀, Norfolk, Va.; 2 ♂'s Len Haven Road, Va., bred by Hopkins from a Rattan Vine; 2 ♂'s, Cocoanut Grove, Fla., May, 1887 (E. A. Swartz); 1 ♂, Santa Cruz Mts., Cal.; 1 ♀, Los Angeles, Cal.; 1 ♂, Tuscon, Ariz., reared Feb., 1897, from Mesquite twigs by H. G. Hubbard; 1 ♀, Panamint Mts., Cal., April, 1891, and 1 ♂, 12th Aug., 1907, Ithaca, N. Y.

The other species of the genus *Metapelma* are distributed as follows *M. gloriosa*, West., Luzon, Philippines; *M. rufimana*, Westw., Sarawak, Borneo; *M. taprobana*, Westw., Ceylon; *M. obscurata*, Westw., Eastern India; *M. mirabilis*, Brues, Cape Colony.

A NEW NAME IN MEGACHILE.

Megachile geophila, n. n.—*Megachile terrestris*, Ckll., Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., March, 1908, p. 260 (not of Schrottky, 1903). Florissant, Colorado.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

BOOK NOTICE.

INSECT STORIES: by Vernon L. Kellogg, New York; Henry Holt and Company. 298 pages, 12 mo. Illustrated. (Price \$1.50 net, by mail \$1.62.)

One hardly expected that the writer of such serious works as "Darwinism To-day," "American Insects," etc., should present us with a collection of charming stories about insects and their strange doings. Professor Kellogg has, however, accomplished a somewhat difficult task, and produced a book of fascinating interest that appeals not only to youthful readers, but to their elders as well. Whoever begins to read it, if he has any love of nature in his composition, will hardly put the book down till he has finished. Furthermore, the stories are all true; there is no attributing human reasoning to the creatures described, as is so often done in tales about animals. The actual doings of the insects are described, their haunts and habits, their enemies and their prey. It would be difficult to find a more delightful Christmas gift for young people, or a book more suitable for reading to children in a nature-study class.

Mailed December 8th, 1908.