

printer. This will only be possible if we can increase the membership.

To do this we will need the help of every member. The first step is to invite all those who are interested in beetles to join the society. You can help in this by urging coleopterists to join or by sending to the Manager the names and addresses of prospective members. Additional library subscriptions would be equally helpful.

R. H. A., *Manager*

**A NOTE ON "PASSALUS CORNUTUS FABRICIUS"
(PASSALIDAE)**

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It is surprising to find that some modern American authors still use the name *Passalus cornutus* for the well-known horned passalid of the United States. It may be useful therefore to point out why its correct name is *Popilius disjunctus* (Illiger, 1800).

The genus *Popilius* Kaup, it should be realized, belongs to the subfamily Pseudacanthinae, which is very distinct from the Passalinae including the genus *Passalus*, so that the present use of the old name for the horned passalid is a misleading anachronism. The error dates back to Kaup who, in 1868, published a Prodrömus to a monograph of the family wherein he first dismembered the old 'omnibus' genus *Passalus*. He included *cornutus* and other species in his restricted genus *Passalus*. Subsequently, in his Monograph of 1871 Kaup further restricted *Passalus* transferring some species to a new genus *Popilius* and several other genera, leaving *cornutus* and three further species in *Passalus*. Kuwert in his Monograph of 1897 also followed Kaup.

Both authors however had overlooked the fact that long before them the old writers on *Passalus* had clearly recognized the fact that its typical species was (*Lucanus*) *interruptus* Linnaeus, a widely distributed tropical American species. Thus the genus *Neleus*, established by Kaup and also used by Kuwert for *interruptus* and its immediate allies, became a synonym of

Passalus, together with a large number of weak groups which had been given generic names but which are now regarded as being without value. The invalid *Passalus* of Kaup, being congeneric with *Popilius* Kaup, must be known by the latter name.

The trivial name *cornutus* Fabricius, 1801, has been the one most generally adopted for the North American species; to a lesser extent *distinctus* Weber, 1801, has also been used. However as long ago as 1905 Richard Zang showed that an earlier trivial name, *disjunctus* Illiger, 1800, was valid and should be used. Thus, we have the transformation from *Passalus cornutus* to *Popilius disjunctus*. The latter name is the one adopted in the Passalidae part of the *Coleopterorum Catalogus* (Hincks & Dibb, pars. 142, 1935) where chapter and verse may be found.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are glad to publish the background of this change of names, although we feel it is not quite correct to imply that "modern American authors still use the name *Passalus cornutus* . . ." The synonymic notes in 1905 by Zang were not followed by Leng, because Zang treated the species under the name *Odontolaenius disiunctus* Illiger and merely mentioned *cornutus* as a synonym in the text. Leng could hardly have been expected to catch such a reference. As soon as the *Coleopterorum Catalogus* part on Passalidae and the revision of the family by Hincks and Dibb appeared in 1935, this change was noted in the American checklist, appearing on page 56 of the Fourth Supplement to Leng in 1939. The only extensive American work on the family since that time was the Checklist of Coleoptera of Latin America (pt. 2, 1944), in which these names were again correctly cited.

It is impossible to prevent the copying of names from older works, especially by non-taxonomists who do not always check the latest sources. I doubt if any American coleopterist working in the Passalidae has made this error in the last fifteen years.

FORMATION OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

At the eighty-seventh annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, held at Guelph on November 1-3, 1950, it was decided to form a national society, to be called the Ento-

mological Society of Canada. The new society will serve as a link between the various Canadian regional societies, namely, the Acadian Entomological Society, the Entomological Society of Ontario, the Entomological Society of Manitoba, the Entomological Society of British Columbia, the proposed entomological society of Quebec, and others that may be established. *The Canadian Entomologist* will be published jointly by the Ontario and the national societies, Dr. W. R. Thompson continuing as Editor, with Dr. G. C. Ulyett as Associate Editor.

W. A. Ross, Division of Entomology, Ottawa, was elected President and Professor A. W. Baker, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Vice-President. R. H. Wigmore and A. B. Baird, Division of Entomology, Ottawa, have been named Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The Directors comprise the presidents of the regional societies, namely, D. D. Pond, Fredericton, N. B.; W. N. Keenan, Ottawa, Ont.; C. A. Smith, Winnipeg, Man.; and Prof. G. J. Spencer, Vancouver, B. C.; as well as Father O. Fournier, President, Montreal Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario; Dr. C. W. Farstad, Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge, Alta.; and Dr. A. S. West, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

The annual meeting of the national society will always be held jointly with the annual meeting of one of the regional societies. In 1951 the combined meetings will be held at Ottawa.

CANADA DEPT. OF AGRIC.

THE SIZE OF THE J. F. BRIMLEY COLLECTION

Mr. J. F. Brimley of Wellington, Ontario has kindly furnished the following information on the size of his beetle collection.

Space considerations prevent long series in the J. F. Brimley collection. There are 5,186 North American species represented in the 30,000 mounted specimens, with considerable amounts of material still undetermined. Species taken in Canada number 2,348, of which, by intensive collecting, 1,519 determined species have been taken in Prince Edward County, the smallest of the counties in Ontario. In addition to this, there are many thousands of specimens in papers available for exchange or study.

R. H. A.