

dorsal blotches, dull vermilion; occipital band, occupying posterior half of parietals, temporals, and anterior row of dorsal scales, orange (being of a light yellow ground-color clouded with vermilion); rostral and loreal region more pinkish; labials white; light dorsal interspaces primrose yellow, color deepest on median line and fading gradually into white on the first scale row; borders of vermilion patches jet black; lateral dusky spots dark brown (being black overlaid with vermilion); whole underside white with mother-of-pearl reflections.—*Leonhard Stejneger*.

#### WHY NOT *PARAMAYA*?

In a former paper\* I referred to the substitution by Stebbing of *Mamaia* 1904† for *Maja* Lamarck 1801,‡ the latter genus being rightfully abandoned. There is, however, an earlier name than *Mamaia*, *Paramaya* de Haan, which has claims to validity. *Paramaya* first appeared in 1837 on plate XXIV of De Haan's *Fauna Japonica*, Crustacea, as a subgeneric designation, the type species being called "*PISA (Paramaya) spinigera n.*" This plate and plates E and F were issued with *Decas III*, pages 65 to 72, according to *Bulletin des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles en Néerlande*, Leyde, 1838, where the notice appears in the number for August 31, in a list of books published since January 1, 1838. That the date given (1838) is not early enough is evidenced by the fact that the "Ophidii" of the *Fauna Japonica* which was published at the same time, is noticed in *Gelehrte Anzeigen*, München, July 7, 1837. The text of "*Decas Tertia*" is also dated 1837 at the foot of page 65.

The type species of *Paramaya* is congeneric with the type species of *Mamaia*, *M. squinado* (Herbst), 1788.

The name *Paramaya* remained undisputed until 1839, when de Haan published his "*Decas Quarta*," including pages 73 to 108. On page 93, appears the caption "*MAJA (MAJA) SPINIGERA, n. sp.*," followed by "*T. XXIV. f. 4. ♀ (Paramaya) et T. G.*," thus rejecting his *Paramaya* for *Maja*. Again in the last issue of his work, in 1849, de Haan publishes under "*ERRATA IN TABULIS SPECIERUM*," the following, "*Tab. XXIV. fig. 4: Maja (Paramaya) spinigera, n.; lege: M. (Maja) spinig.*"

The right of an author to the privilege of *errata* published simultaneously with the error is conceded; but he can not cancel names at a later date, even in a continuation of the same work, without violating Canon XXXV of the A. O. U. Code, which says, "An author has no right to change or reject names of his own proposing, except in accordance with rules of nomenclature governing all naturalists, he having only the same right as other naturalists over the names he has himself proposed." *Paramaya*, therefore, was not obliterated by de Haan, but remained a synonym of *Maja* until to-day, when it must needs take the place of the older name.—*Mary J. Rathbun*.

\* Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XVII, p. 171, 1904.

† Spolia Zeylanica, II, pt. V, p. 2, April, 1904.

‡ Syst. Anim. sans Vert., 154, 1801.