

THE GENERIC NAME *NYCTERIS*.

The generic name *Nycteris* as used for a group of Old World bats is currently assumed to date from Geoffroy and Cuvier, 1795.* In reality it was not published in this sense until 1803,† the name as it occurs in the earlier work being strictly a *nomen nudum*.‡ But during this interval of eight years *Nycteris* had been applied by Borkhausen§ and Bechstein|| to a very different animal, the New York Bat of Pennant, now currently known as *Lasiurus borealis*. It is therefore necessary to substitute *Nycteris* Borkhausen 1797 for *Lasiurus* Gray 1831,¶ *Petalia* Gray 1838** for *Nycteris* Geoffroy 1803,†† and the new family name *Petalidae* for *Nycteridae* Dobson 1875.§§

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* Geoffroy and Cuvier, Magasin Encyclopédique, 1e année, II, p. 186.

† Geoffroy, Catal. Mamm. Mus. Nat. d'Hist. Nat., Paris, p. 64.

‡ "Nyctère (*Nycteris*)."

§ Der Zoologe (Compendiose Bibliothek gemeinnützigsten Kenntnisse für alle Stände, pt. XXI) Heft IV-VII, p. 66, 1797, type *Vespertilio noveboracensis* Erxleben. Deutsche Fauna, I, p. 86, 1797 (no type mentioned).

|| Bechstein used the same name in his translation of Pennant's Synopsis of Quadrupeds, 1800, and in his Gemeinnützige Naturgeschichte Deutschlands, 1801, though in the latter no species is mentioned.

¶ Zoological Miscellany, No. 1, p. 38.

** Mag. Zool. and Bot., II, p. 494. Type *Nycteris javanicus* Geoffroy.

†† Unless one of the orthographic variants, *Nieteris* Desmarest 1803 (Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., XV, p. 501) or *Nycterus* Fischer 1813 (Zoognosia, I, p. 18) be regarded as a distinct name.

§§ Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 4th ser., XVI, p. 348 (part). Miller, Families and Genera of Bats, p. 99, 1907.