

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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GENERAL NOTES.

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THE NAMES FOR TWO GENERA OF AFRICAN ARTIODACTYLA.

The generic name *Koiropotamus* Gray, 1843 (List Spec. Mamm. Brit. Mus., p. xxvii), is usually cited as a *nomen nudum*, but proves on examination to be a valid name. Although printed in one place in the body of the text as "*Choiropotamus*," it appears in the "Systematic List" in the front of the book and in the index as *Koiropotamus* only, and was evidently taken direct from the specific name *koiropotamus* of Desmoulins. As *Choiropotamus*, in the body of the text (p. 185), it has been accepted as a valid name, but has been considered as preoccupied by *Chaeropotamus*, "Cuvier, 1821," which name in reality first dates as a technical name for a fossil pig, not from Cuvier, but from Desmarest, 1822 (Mammalogie, vol. 2, suppl., p. 544). In 1854, when he proposed the substitute name *Potamochoerus*, Gray cited in synonymy from his 1843 work the name *Koiropotamus* only, and took *Choiropotamus* Gray from the Annals and Magazine of Natural History for October, 1852. It seems clear that *Choiropotamus* Gray, 1843, is a lapsus for *Koiropotamus* in the same work; that no error of transcription, *lapsus calami*, nor typographical error is evident in the case of *Koiropotamus*, since it was taken direct from the specific name *koiropotamus* of Desmoulins; and that the generic name *Koiropotamus* Gray is not invalidated by the earlier *Chaeropotamus* of Desmarest. The bush pigs would rightly be known, then, by the generic name *Koiropotamus* Gray (type *Sus africanus* Schreber, not Gmelin, = *Sus koiropotamus* Desmoulins).

Another genus of African ungulates that through error lost the name first proposed for it is that currently known as *Bubalis*. It was first named *Alcelaphus* by Blainville in 1816 (Bull. Soc. Philom., p. 75), type *A. buselaphus*. Later names, all with the same type species, are *Bubalis* Goldfuss, 1820 (Handb. Zool., vol. 2, p. 367); *Damalis* Hamilton Smith, 1827 (Griffith's Cuvier, vol. 4, p. 343); *Acronotus* Hamilton Smith, 1827 (l. c., p. 346); and *Bubalus* Ogilby, 1837 (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1836, p. 139; not of Smith, 1827). The name recently used for the genus, "*Bubalis* Lichtenstein, 1814," is not a valid generic name (see Lyon, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 27, p. 228, 1914). With the suppression of *Bubalis* Lichtenstein, it follows that the generic name for the hartebeests, instead of becoming *Bubalis* Goldfuss, should revert to the time honored *Alcelaphus* of Blainville, so long in use before it was erroneously supplanted by *Bubalis*.

—N. Hollister.

## LOPHOTRICCUS VERSUS COMETORNIS.

In the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Vol. LXIV, No. 4, 1921, p. 372, we stated that the earliest designation of the type of Lophotriccus was that of *Lophotriccus spicifer* (Lafresnaye), by Selater in 1888, and accordingly we substituted Lophotriccus for Colopteryx, creating the genus Cometornis for *Todirostrum squamaecrista* Lafresnaye. Dr. Charles W. Richmond has just called our attention to a much earlier type fixation by Sharpe (Zoological Record, Vol. XX, 1884, Aves, p. 34) who designated *Lophotriccus squamicristatus* (Lafr.) [= *Lophotriccus squamaecrista* (Lafr.)]. Unfortunately we had overlooked this type designation which, no doubt, is the earliest.

Our Cometornis is thus a pure synonym of *Lophotriccus*, and *Cometornis vitiosus* Bangs and Penard becomes *Lophotriccus vitiosus* (Bangs and Penard). Also, the bird formerly known as *Colopteryx galeatus* (Boddaert), for which we had substituted *Lophotriccus galeatus*, should continue to be known as *Colopteryx galeatus* (Bodd.).

—Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard.

## A NEW NAME FOR PACHYRAMPHUS POLYCHOPTERUS COSTA-RICENSIS CHUBB.

In our review of the forms of *Pachyramphus polychopterus* (Bull. M. C. Z., 1921, 64, p. 391) we used the name *Pachyramphus polychopterus costaricensis* Chubb for the form inhabiting Panama and western Costa Rica. This name however, is preoccupied by *Pachyramphus versicolor costaricensis* Bangs (Proc. N. E. Z. Club, 1908, 4, p. 26).

It was our intention to make this correction before the publication of our paper, but we neglected to do so. We therefore now propose ***Pachyramphus polychopterus tantulus***, nom. nov., for the form of Panama and western Costa Rica to replace *Pachyramphus polychopterus costaricensis* Chubb preoccupied.

—Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard.

## TEXTOR TEMMINCK VERSUS ALECTO LESSON.

The generic name *Textor* Temminck is usually cited from this author's "Nouveau Recueil Planches Coloriées," III, livraison 75, January 5, 1828, wrapper, and texte p. [1] to pl. 446, and its type commonly considered by monotypy to be *Textor alecto* Temminck, sp. nov., which equals *Coccothraustes albirostris* Vieillot. Temminck had, however, previously used (Nouv. Rec. Planch. Col., II, livr. 54, February 12, 1825, p. [2] to texte of genus *Oriolus* Linn. [in text]) this generic name for *Oriolus textor* Gmelin (= *Oriolus cucullatus* Müller = *Hyphantornis cucullatus* Auct.) in the following manner: "*Oriolus textor*, Ib. sp. 22 [Latham, Index Ornith., I, 1790, p. 180], est du genre Tisserin (*Textor*)." As *Oriolus cucullatus* Müller is the only species mentioned in this connection, it is thereby made the type by monotypy of the generic designation *Textor*, which must therefore be transferred to the group now called *Hyphantornis*.

The earliest usable name for the genus heretofore known as *Textor* is *Alecto* Lesson (Traité d'Ornith., about March 1, 1831, p. 433), type by monotypy, *Textor alecto* Temminck = *Coccothraustes albirostris* Vieillot. The forms now referable to this group appear to be as follows:

- Alecto albirostris albirostris* (Vieillot).
- Alecto albirostris nyansae* (Neumann).
- Alecto albirostris intermedius* (Reichenow).
- Alecto albirostris senegalensis* (Shelley).
- Alecto niger* (Smith).

The change of generic name from *Textor* to *Alecto*, as above indicated, necessitates the change of the family name Textoridae to Alectuidae.

—Harry C. Oberholser.

#### HYPHANTORNIS GRAY BECOMES TEXTOR TEMMINCK.

As we have already shown (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XXXIV, 1921, p. 78), the original use of the generic name *Textor* Temminck (Nouv. Rec. Planch. Col., II, livr. 54, Feb. 12, 1825, p. [2] to texte of genus *Oriolus* Linn. [in text]) makes *Oriolus cucullatus* Müller its type by monotypy, and it is, therefore, applicable, as the earliest generic name, to the group heretofore known as *Hyphantornis* Gray. If this group be recognized as generically distinct from the genus *Ploceus*, the species composing it should bear the name *Textor*; if considered but subgenerically distinct the name will nevertheless supplant *Hyphantornis* as the subgeneric designation. The forms apparently now referable to this group are as follows:

- Textor nigriceps* (Layard).
- Textor collaris* (Vieillot).
- Textor cucullatus cucullatus* (Müller).
- Textor cucullatus bohndorffi* (Reichenow).
- Textor cucullatus femininus* (Grant).
- Textor cucullatus abyssinicus* (Gmelin).
- Textor spilonotus* (Vigors).
- Textor spekii* (Heuglin).

—Harry C. Oberholser.

