

Aim and Scope

The aim of this project was to compile a comprehensive interactive catalogue of all the published genus-group names of Lepidoptera from Linnaeus, 1758, up to 2014, and to provide full-colour images of representatives of most included families.

The catalogue comprises more than 32,000 genus-group names including all available names and all junior homonyms, junior synonyms, unnecessary replacement names, misspellings, incorrect citations, and suppressed, unavailable, invalid or rejected names most of which are given in the publications listed in 'References and Sources' (arranged chronologically), hereafter referred to as the source material.

Gerardo Lamas (2008) updated the generic names of butterflies (Hesperioidea and Papilionoidea) and their higher classification. Any changes have been included in this catalogue. There are now nearly 32,000 entries in this catalogue.

Genus-group names which have come to our attention since March 2000, have also been added.

Every nomenclatorial available name is linked, as far as possible, with its type-species determined in accordance to The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Edition 3; published in 1985). Additional type-species have been added following the card index of Lepidoptera names in the Natural History Museum, London.

Senior names of all junior homonyms, junior objective synonyms and misspellings are given.

Junior names and misspellings of all senior homonyms and senior objective synonyms are given. Additional misspellings of Gelechiidae genus-group names (pers. comm. K. Sattler) are also included. In the case of a genus having a type-species which is a junior subjective synonym, then the senior synonym and reference is also included when this was quoted in the source material listed above.

Subjective synonyms of genus-group names of Geometridae and Noctuidae following Parsons et al. (1999) and Poole (1989) respectively are included within the Notes field, but not in the Junior synonyms field.

As far as possible the status, sex, provenance, and depository of the type specimen(s) of each type-species is given. Type-specimen data were not included in Hemming (1957); Cowan (1968 & 1970); Fletcher & Nye (1984); Nye & Fletcher (1991); Poole (1989); Kristensen (1999); Lamas et al. (in prep.); nor Zoological Record. Additional type specimen data has been included for the Geometridae, from Parsons et al. (1999), and for other families from the card index of Lepidoptera names in the Natural History Museum, London.

Where a lectotype has been designated for the type-species of a genus-group name, the authority, publication date and reference are included.

Family (and subfamily names, where relevant) have been taken from the source material listed above, updated as far as possible following Kristensen (1999) for the Heterocera and Lamas et al. (in prep.) for the Rhopalocera. Additional comments have been included where this was felt necessary and the references have been standardised throughout, using abbreviations and full titles as cited in the World List of Scientific Periodicals (edn 4) or, if not included therein, according to the methods used in that edition or the Natural History Museum's on-line Library Catalogue.

Over 400 full colour images, representative of most of the families and subfamilies of Lepidoptera have been included. Images of museum specimens are taken from the Natural History Museum's unrivalled collections. Wingspan is quoted for most of these. Images of live specimens are taken from a variety of sources (see Acknowledgements). All images are credited to the individual photographers who took the original pictures.

References and sources

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