THE NAMES FOR THE SUPRAGENERIC CATEGORIES OF THE MEGATHYMIDÆ

by Don B. Stallings and J. R. Turner

In our recent paper on the Megathymidæ of Mexico with a synopsis of the classification of the family (*Lepid. News* 11: 113-137; May 1958) we set up three new suprageneric units, two of which we named. While the text of our paper indicates how we distinguish these new catagories, it has been called to our attention that formal descriptions should be given. This we do in these notes and name the third.

Subfamily ÆGIALINÆ Stallings & Turner

The key character of this subfamily in our estimation is the fact that the larva builds a silken "trap-door" over the opening of the larval cavity in the leaf of the plant where the larva feeds. It is distinguished from Megathyminæ by the fact that the larva of the Megathyminæ builds a silken "tent" over the opening of the larval cavity. These two subfamilies are further distinguished by the fact that the larvæ of Megathyminæ do most of their feeding in the underground caudex of the plant and are pulp feeders, while the larvæ of the Ægialinæ do most of their feeding in the fleshy part of the leaf and seem to be sap feeders. In our opinion, the amount of pulp removed from the larval cavity is not large enough to produce the mature larvæ. In the Ægialinæ the caudel end of the pupa may have hooks or a moderate number of short bristles but is never provided with dense, long bristles. The vaginal plate of the female is complex and thick. The type genus of Ægialinæ is *Ægiale* Felder & Felder.

Tribe ÆGIALINI Stallings & Turner

This tribe is clearly characterized by the small knobbed termination of the cremaster of the pupa and the failure of the larva to line the larval cavity with any white "powder." The proharpe of the male genitalia is shorter than the cucullus or apparently absent. The type genus of Ægialini is *Ægiale* Felder & Felder.

Tribe AGATHYMINI Stallings & Turner, new tribe

This tribe was indicated by our Mexican paper but not named there, as the type genus had not yet been named. Agathymini is characterized by the triangular pointed tip of the cremaster and by the fact that the larvæ line the pupal cavity with white "powder" shortly before they pupate. Agathymini is further distinguished from Ægialini by the fact that the cremaster of the pupa is nude, or at most has only minute bristles, whereas Ægialini has a number of well defined bristles and cremaster hooks. In the male genitalia

the proharpe is longer than the cucullus. The type genus of Agathymini is *Agathymus* Freeman.

Subfamily MEGATHYMINÆ (Holland) Stallings & Turner

This subfamily has in the pupa a cremaster that is broadly rounded at the terminal end, unlike any of the Ægialinæ, and has dense, stiff, long bristles but lacks cremaster hooks. The vaginal plate of the female is simple and thin.

The classification of the Megathymidæ would then appear to be as follows:—

Family MEGATHYMIDÆ Comstock, 1895; *Manual Study Insects*: p. 365 (—CASTNIOIDES Riley, 1876; *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis* 3: 339.)
- Subfamily MEGATHYMINÆ Holland, 1899; *Butterfly Book*: p. 368 (emend. Stallings & Turner, 1958: p. 134).
  - Genus *Megathymus* Scudder, 1872; *Rept. Peabody Acad. Sci.* 1871: 83.
  - Genus *Stallingsia* Freeman, 1958; *Lepid. News* 12: 87.
- Subfamily ÆGIALINÆ Stallings & Turner, 1958; *Lepid. News* 11: 134.
  - Tribe ÆGIALINI Stallings & Turner, 1958; *Lepid. News* 11: 134.
    - Genus *Ægiale* Felder & Felder, 1860; *Wiener Ent. Monats.* 4: 110.
    - Genus *Ternerina* Freeman, 1958; *Lepid. News* 12: 84.
  - Tribe AGATHYMINI Stallings & Turner, new tribe.
    - Genus *Agathymus* Freeman, 1958; *Lepid. News* 12: 82.

Caldwell, Kansas, U. S. A.

PORTION OF INGHAM COLLECTION ACQUIRED BY YALE UNIVERSITY

Through the intercession of CHRISTOPHER HENNE, the magnificent series of aberrations of *Euphydryas,* both bred and field-caught by the late CHARLES HENRY INGHAM, has been purchased from Mrs. INGHAM for the Entomology section of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University. Also obtained were various aberrations and hybrids of other genera, certain groups of immediate research interest at Yale (*Glaucopsyche xerces, Papilio, Anthocaris, Colias, Philotes*, etc.), and miscellaneous moths. Most of the specimens were taken by Mr. INGHAM in California. (See INGHAM obituary by Mr. HENNE: *Lepid. News* 11: 169-170.)

Another valuable addition to the study series in the Peabody Museum came with the gift by CARL G. KIRKWOOD of a very large number of mounted Rhopalocera from California and Arizona. Mr. Kirkwood has concentrated his attention on the Geometridæ and disposed of his Rhopalocera collection to the Los Angeles County Museum, Yale, and various private collections.

CHARLES L. REMINGTON, Associate Curator of Entomology,
Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University.