

**BAETIS [LEACH, 1815] (INSECTA, EPHEMEROPTERA) : PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.
Z.N.(S). 1620**

By D. E. Kimmins, (*British Museum (Natural History) London*)

The object of this application is to request the use of the plenary powers to stabilize the current usage of the generic name *Baetis* [Leach, 1815] by designating for that taxon a type-species which was not an originally included species.

The generic name *Baetis* was first used by Leach, 1815 (*in* Brewster's *Edinb. Encycl.* 9 : 137), the only included species being *Ephemera bioculata* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 577). Linnaeus' description of *E. bioculata* was very brief but included a reference to a fuller description (1746, *Fauna Suecia*, no. 751). This fuller description was reprinted in the binominal second edition of this work (1761 : 376). The name *Baetis bioculatus* (L., 1758) (often mis-spelt *binoculatus*) has been universally quoted as the type-species of *Baetis* Leach.

In 1912, Bengtsson (*Ark. Zool.* 7 (36) : 4-5) cast doubts on the accepted interpretation of *Baetis bioculatus* (L., 1758) and, after considering the fuller description given in the *Fauna Suecica*, he came to the conclusion that the species generally called *Baetis bioculatus* (L.) was not conspecific with *Ephemera bioculata* Linnaeus, and that the latter name ought to be applied to the species *Ephemera diaphanum* Müller, 1776 (*Zool. dan. Prodr.* : 143) (= *Centroptilum luteolum* auct.). In the same paper, Bengtsson states (p. 5) that the species *Baetis bioculatus* auct. nec. L. is in fact *Ephemera fuscata* Linnaeus, (1761 : 376). This species was placed by Eaton (1885, *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond.* (2) 3 (Zool.) : 158) in the synonymy of the mis-identified species *Baetis bioculatus* (L.). These changes were not adopted by Ulmer (1929, *Tierw. Mitteleur.* 4 (1) III) (possibly due to a dislike of disturbing a well-established name) nor by Schoenemund (1930, *Tierw. Deutschl.* 19) and in consequence they have been overlooked or ignored by the majority of later workers.

Concerning the types of these Linnean species, they are not represented in the Linnean Society's collection, and Bengtsson (1912) states "Little or nothing of value seems to be left now of LINNÉ'S and FABRICIUS' types of this group". We are thus left with only the descriptions on which to base our interpretations. Bengtsson's conclusions are derived from these descriptions and from his knowledge as to which of the commoner Scandinavian species best fitted the descriptions.

There appears to be no reason to reject Bengtsson's findings and we are therefore faced with two alternatives:

- (1) to accept Bengtsson's interpretation of *Ephemera bioculata* Linnaeus, 1758, as the species which Leach intended, when he cited *E. bioculata* L. as the type-species of his genus *Baetis*. Such action would entail the transfer of the well-established name *Baetis* to the group of

species currently known as *Centroptilum* Eaton, and the large group of species hitherto known as *Baetis* would require a change of name; or

- (2) to accept *Baetis fuscatus* (Linnaeus, 1761) (= *Baetis bioculatus* auct.) as the type-species of *Baetis* [Leach, 1815], thus preserving the current usage of both the generic names *Baetis* and *Centroptilum*.

Since the second alternative is in the greater interests of stability of nomenclature, the Commission is therefore requested

- (1) to use its plenary powers (under Art. 70(a)) to set aside all selections of type-species for the genus *Baetis* [Leach, 1815], made prior to the Ruling now requested and, having done so, to designate *Ephemera fuscata* Linnaeus, 1761, to be the type-species of that genus;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Baetis* [Leach, 1815] (gender : masculine), type-species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Ephemera fuscata* Linnaeus, 1761; and
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *fuscata* Linnaeus, 1761, as published in the binomen *Ephemera fuscata* (type-species of *Baetis* [Leach, 1815]).