PROPOSED AMPLIFICATION IN CERTAIN RESPECTS OF THE SUGGESTED "DECLARATION" RELATING TO THE PROCEDURE TO BE ADOPTED UNDER ARTICLE 14 WHEN A SPECIFIC NAME IS PUBLISHED IN AN ABBREVIATED FORM

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

(Commission Reference: Z.N.(S.) 1042)

Two suggestions are here put forward for the amplification of the Declaration which I recommended in Application Z.N.(S.) 1042 (1957, Bull. zool. Nomencl. 13: 210—212) should be adopted by the International Commission for the purpose of clarifying the procedure to be adopted under Article 14 of the Règles in the case of a specific name published in an abbreviated form.

2. These suggestions are:—

(a) a proposal submitted by myself arising out of a letter which I recently received from Mr. Arthur N. Dusenbury, Jr (Creole Petroleum Corporation, Josepín, Monagas, Venezuela);

(b) a proposal submitted by Professor J. Chester Bradley (Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.) in a note in which he recorded his support for the adoption of the Declaration which I had recommended.

3. The proposal now submitted by myself has as its object the exclusion from the scope of the proposed Declaration of a specific name consisting of a word compounded (i) of the surname of a person, and (ii) preceded by one or more of that person’s initials. To take one of the examples cited by Mr. Dusenbury, it was never my intention to recommend that a specific name consisting of the word “ałowensi”, composed of a latinised version in the genitive singular of the modern surname “Owens”, preceded by the initials “A.L.”, should be expanded to include a full writing-out of the names represented by above initials “A.L.” even if the words represented by these initials could be ascertained. The proper course in my view, is that such a name as alowensi should be treated as an arbitrary combination of letters in the same way as the International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, directed that a specific name consisting of a phonetic reproduction of the initials of persons should be treated. Mr. Dusenbury’s letter and my reply are...
reproduced in Annexe 1 to the present note. The proposal which I submit for the clarification of the above matter is set out in paragraph 4 of my letter to Mr. Dusenbury.

4. Professor Bradley's proposal, which is reproduced in Annexe 2, is that the Declaration should provide that in the case of a name published after the close of 1957 no name published in an abbreviated form, other than a name compounded of a cardinal number printed as a number instead of being printed as a word, should possess any status in zoological nomenclature.

5. Finally, it would, I think, be well that it should be made clear in the Règles in some appropriate form that no generic name, whatever its date of publication, possesses the status of availability if published in an abbreviated form. This provision seems to be necessary, for a generic name, to be acceptable, should be published in such a way as to make it clear at once to all zoologists—and not merely to specialists in the group concerned—whether it is a homonym of some previously published name and whether a given name, if subsequently published, would be liable to rejection as a junior homonym of a name published in this objectionable way.

ANNEXE 1

Correspondence between Arthur N. Dusenbury, Jr. (Jusepin, Monagas, Venezuela) and Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

(a) Letter dated 4th August 1957 addressed by Arthur N. Dusenbury, Jr. to Francis Hemming

Specific names published in an abbreviated form

Floyd Hodson (1926, "Venezuelan and Caribbean Turritellas", *Bulletin of American Paleontology* 11 (No. 45): 201, 204—205) described two new fossil gastropods which he named "Turritella plebeia Say A-L. Woensi, n. subsp." and "Turritella G-A. Weaveri, n.sp.". Because of the rules against capitalisation of specific names and against the employment of hyphens in specific names, the paleontologists of our company have been writing these names as "alowensi" and "gaweaveri". Hodson's description of these forms states that the first was "named in honor of Mr. A. L. Owens, Geologist for the Standard Oil Company of Venezuela" and that the second was "named in honor of Mr. G. A. Weaver who was an invaluable collaborator in the field work during 1924—25".
Obviously, initials are a form of abbreviation, hence, if your proposal (*Bull.* *zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 210—212) to spell out all abbreviated specific names is adopted, as I think it should be, it would necessitate emending Hodson’s names to include the complete first and middle names of the two geologists honoured by him. By referring to old membership lists of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, I find that A. L. Owens is Allen L. Owens and that G. A. Weaver is George A. Weaver, but I have so far been unable to ascertain their middle names. Doubtless, this could be accomplished with sufficient expenditure of time and effort. Do you advise me to pursue this course? Or can you suggest an easier one?

(b) Reply dated 10th September 1957 addressed to *Arthur N. Dusenbury, Jr.*

by *Francis Hemming*

**Names published in an abbreviated form**

In reply to your letter of the 4th August, I should explain that it was my intention in putting forward Application Z.N.(S.) 1042 (Hemming, *Bull.* *zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 210—212) to seek a decision from the Commission as to the treatment to be accorded to names published in an abbreviated form in cases where the words of which those names consisted were either Latin or Latinised words of a clearly recognisable kind. You will remember that the example which I cited was that of the word “americ.” which was clearly an abbreviated form of the Latinised word “americanus”.

2. It was certainly no part of my idea that the proposed *Declaration* should involve the writing out in full of the initials of the first name or first names of a zoologist in those cases where such initials were incorporated with the surname of that zoologist in a specific name.

3. In my view, it is very undesirable that specific names should be formed in this way. When, however, such a name is published, it should be treated in the same way as names based upon a phonetic reproduction of the initials of a zoologist, as regards which a Ruling has already been given by the International Congress of Zoology. This latter problem was raised by Mr. R. G. Fennah in connection with the name *veedee* published by Ross in 1943 in the combination *Aglaostriga veedee*. Fennah explained that this specific name was presumably intended to represent the initials “V.D.” written phonetically, these letters being the initials of E. C. Van Dyke and E. P. Van Duzee, both of whom were listed as collectors of the species concerned. (Fennah, 1945, *Bull.* *zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 8—9). This application was considered by the Commission in Paris in 1948 and it was then decided to ask the International Congress of Zoology to insert words in the *Règles* which would secure that a name such as *veedee* Ross would become an available name (see 1950, *Bull.* *zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 252). The basis of the decision then taken was that a name such as *veedee* should be treated as an arbitrary combination of letters.
4. In order to make this matter absolutely clear I propose, now that you have raised this special case, to recommend to the Commission that the following new Point (c) should be inserted in the proposed Declaration.

(c) The foregoing provisions do not apply to a specific name based upon a modern patronymic comprising not only the surname, but also one or more of the initials, of the person in whose honour the specific name was devised, a name so published to be treated as an arbitrary combination of letters.

5. I propose further to recommend that the "Recommendation" which now forms Point (c) of the proposal, which would become Point (d), should be expanded to cover names falling in the suggested new (c) above as well as in the original (a) above, that is to say that it should be recommended that authors should avoid (i) publishing specific names in abbreviated form, and (ii) devising specific names consisting of words comprising the initials of a person as well as that person’s surnames.

(c) Letter dated 6th October 1957 addressed by Arthur N. Dusenbury, Jr. to Francis Hemming

I am very much pleased with your solution of the problem of the specific name based upon a modern patronymic and including initials, and I wish to support your proposed recommendation to the Commission covering the point I raised. Your solution will promote stabilization of the nomenclature, for it will allow us to continue to use the name Turritella plebeia alowensi Hodson and Turritella gaweaveri Hodson as before.

ANNEXE 2

Support for and proposed extension of the "Declaration" suggested by Secretary Hemming to cover the case of a name proposed in an abbreviated form

By J. CHESTER BRADLEY

(Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.)

I wish to express my support of the Declaration proposed by the Secretary. But the practice of proposing a name in abbreviated form is so abominable that I recommend that it be outlawed for the future. Therefore, may I suggest the following provision to replace paragraph (c), the "Recommendation":

"Subsequent to the year 1957, the name of a taxon proposed in an abbreviated form shall have no status in nomenclature, either under the Law of Priority, or the Law of Homonymy. But this shall not be construed to apply to a name compounded with a cardinal numeral which is not written as a word ".