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## Silbermann's "Revue entomologique": Publication Dates for Nomenclatural Purposes and Bibliographic Notes (Insecta, mainly Coleoptera)

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### Abstract

The rare yet entomologically important scientific journal "Revue entomologique" was published in French language in five volumes during the first half of the nineteenth century. We provide some bibliographic notes which reveal, for example, the motivation and goals of the editor, Gustave Silbermann. He wanted to contribute to an exchange of entomological knowledge between French and German scientists, in particular by translating German articles into French and to inform his readers of new German and French entomological literature. The work deals with many taxa, mainly beetles, yet also moths, cicadas and other insects. The journal contains taxonomic notes and species descriptions for which correct dating is essential. Evidence inside the books indicates the partly wrong assignment of the publication dates printed on the title pages from 1833 to 1837. We found one depository holding the originally assembled and unbound fascicles of the first two volumes. Despite the month of publication being absent on all wrappers, their original composition allowed the detailed reconstruction of publication dates, as well as of unpaginated species descriptions. We analysed the work, attributed page numbers to single or merged fascicles and provided publication dates for all 30 fascicles, which were shown to have been published from 1833 to 1840. We also traced the enigmatic reference for the description of a longhorn beetle (*Molorchus ulmi* Chevrolat, 1838) and were able to demonstrate that its supposed association with the "Revue entomologique" is erroneous.

**Key words:** entomo-historical research, *Molorchus ulmi*, nineteenth century, Strasbourg, zoological nomenclature

### Introduction

The French journal "Revue entomologique" (hereafter Rev.ent.), edited by Gustave Silbermann, printed in Strasbourg and published in Strasbourg and Paris, comprises five volumes with title pages showing the publication dates 1833 to 1837. Original research papers treat mainly Coleoptera (as well as Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, and other insect groups). The beetles comprise Carabidae, Tenebrionidae, Scarabaeidae, Chrysomelidae, Buprestidae, and several other families. The work contains, among others, descriptions of insects, taxonomic notes, book reviews and general information for entomologists, the exact publication dates of which are essential for nomenclatural purposes. The first two volumes contain species descriptions beyond the sequential page numbering which complicates their dating.

Whilst the publication dates of volumes one and two seemed to correspond to the years indicated on their title pages, evidence had already been found inside volumes four and five which documented that certain parts or even whole volumes were published later. The few attempts to solve discrepancies between the imprint year and the actual publication date comprise Hayek (1983) (volume four) and Bouchard *et al.* (2011: 748) (dating of two articles published in volumes three and four, see also Mayor 2007). The records of some catalogues and libraries indicate that the imprinted publication year 1837 of volume five does not apply and might perhaps actually be 1840 (*vide* Sherborn 1922: cvii, or catalogue registers of Basel University Library, Natural History Museum London Library, Biblioteca del Museo regionale di scienze naturali Torino, Index Novus Litteraturae Entomologicae, Biodiversity Heritage Library).

The discovery of the first twelve fascicles in their original composition allows the re-establishment of the

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