

Green 1908

Note on the genus *Antecerooccus*, Green.—In the Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., p. 560 (1900), I erected the genus *Antecerooccus* to contain a species (*A. punctiferus*) in which the test of the adult female was incomplete and not separable from the body of the insect. The test was also characterized by the presence of tufts of glassy filaments. The insect itself was in no wise distinguishable from a typical *Cerooccus*.

The subsequent examination of further material in a more advanced stage of development shows me that *A. punctiferus* eventually develops a complete test freely separable from the body of the insect, and that it then loses more or less completely the earlier tufts of filaments. I am now, therefore, of opinion that *Antecerooccus* must be considered a synonym of *Cerooccus*, and represents only the early adult stage of the species for which the name was founded. Recent examination of an allied form from India has confirmed me in this opinion.

Maskell's *Planchonina bryoides*, which—on my authority—was relegated to *Antecerooccus*, must also be removed to the genus *Cerooccus*. It passes through similar stages of incomplete and complete test, but retains the characteristic tufts of filaments that suggested the name of the insect.

I have recently received from the author an interesting paper entitled "On *Cerooccus eremobius*, gen. et sp. n., an aberrant form of *Coccidæ*" (Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. ix, part 12, p. 455 (1907). A careful study of the description and excellent figures of the supposed new genus lead me to suspect very strongly that this also has been similarly founded upon the early adult stage of an insect that is perfectly referable to the genus *Cerooccus*. The author himself, after describing the cup-shaped test (or ovisac) with "sometimes a slight spout-like prolongation," remarks (p. 462), "Such is the structure in the great majority of specimens. But in a very few of the dried specimens the ovisac has proved to be completely closed except for an opening on the somewhat spout-like prolongation corresponding to the tail of the insect. . . . It appears as if, at a later stage in the life-history than that attained by most of these specimens, more secretory material is added to the open cup, so that the latter becomes a closed structure, as is the case in the allied genus *Asterolecanium*." This being the case, there is nothing in the character of the contained insect to separate it from its still nearer allies in the genus *Cerooccus*. In any case, the adoption of a name so closely resembling that of a nearly related genus is unfortunate.—E. ERNEST GREEN, Peradeniya, Ceylon: December 10th, 1907.