THE INSECTS

The problem here is to locate the III Insect plates. They were Latreille's portrait, "1832", and plates I-104, 24 bis, 25 bis, 28 bis, 39 bis, 49 bis, 84 bis. We have seen that the portrait had appeared by livraison 19 and its date suggests it was in that or in livraison 18. It is possible to locate with certainty only 44 of the IIO numbered plates, so full reasons for deductions and guess work in placing the remainder are given.

PÉRUSSAC

Férussac diligently reviewed the first livraisons in his monthly Bulletin (see Table 1, section 3). He did not cite plate numbers but he mentioned so many illustrated genera by name that most plates are identifiable up to livraison 6. As it is of interest to see how the work opened, the particulars of all Classes are included in the Table. Insect plates 3-14 are thus placed in livraisons 1-6.

It is evident that, in each Class, issue of plates began in numerical sequence, omitting only such dated plates as Insectes 1, 2 which Guérin deliberately delayed.

OTHER SOURCES

Wide search of the contemporary entomological literature has only yielded two other sources of information; Mag. nat. Hist. and Ent. Mag. (Table 1, sections 4, 5, 6). They definitely locate no less than 27 more Insect plates and provide further useful clues. The reports of one Insect plate only in each of livraisons 29, 34, but as many as 18 in livraisons 37–39 are suggestive of a scarcity of insects in the middle livraisons and relative abundance later.

Two of Guérin's actual wrappers, for livraisons 42, 45, have been found, which locate five more Insect plates.

GRIFFITH'S COPIES

Griffith's Animal kingdom (tentative notes in Cowan, 1969⁴), Insects Volumes 14, 15, in seven (not six) parts (Nos. 28-34) were published in 1831-32 and among the 140 plates by Westwood were faithful reproductions of 52 of Guérin's, complete with Guérin's names. Advance copies of Guérin's were used, so we know that he must have had these 52 ready for publication at an early stage. It is here (Table 2) assumed that they were, in fact, the first 52 plates issued by Guérin, and that they appeared in sequence. They include all those identified by Férussac.

It has been necessary to carefully check these 52 plates because, on 5 January 1835, Westwood presented to the Entomological Society of London, of which he was then Secretary, "57 Proof Impressions of Insects from Guérin's Iconographie published by Griffith". These proofs cannot now be traced. Either the "57" was a misprint, or five of the original copies must have been rejected by Griffith. Another untraceable item is "Guérin, F. C. [sic], Iconographie du règne animal, 51 plates of Insects from", in the library list of the same Society at the end of 1836. It may be that these refer to the same item and that "57" was an error for 51. Of the correctness of the figure 52, careful comparison leaves no doubt.