

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

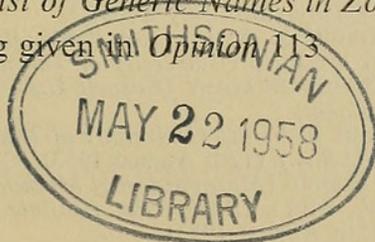
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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DIRECTION 94

Clarification of the entry relating to the generic name
Sarcoptes Latreille, [1802—1803] (Class Arachnida)
made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by
the Ruling given in *Opinion 113*



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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(16th December 1954)

DIRECTION 94

CLARIFICATION OF THE ENTRY RELATING TO THE GENERIC NAME "SARCOPTES" LATREILLE, [1802— 1803] (CLASS ARACHNIDA) MADE ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" BY THE RULING GIVEN IN "OPINION" 113

RULING :—(1) The following revised entry relating to the generic name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] (Class Arachnida) is hereby inserted in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in substitution for the entry in regard thereto made by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 113 :—

542 *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] (gender : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Acarus siro* [var.]¹ *scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758).

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the name Number 1267 :—

Acarus Linnaeus, 1758 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Latreille (1810) : *Acarus siro* Linnaeus, 1758, as interpreted by Fabricius (J.C.) (1794) as "First Reviser" as being objectively identical with *Acarus siro* [var.]¹ *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758.

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

(a) *scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro* [var.]¹ *scabiei* (specific name of

¹ For a note on the method here adopted for citing this name see paragraph 7 of the present *Direction*.

type species of *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803]) (Name No. 1510) ;

- (b) *siro* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro* and interpreted as specified in (2) above (specific name of type species of *Acarus* Linnaeus, 1758) (Name No. 1511).

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Number 1156 :—

Tyroglyphus Latreille, 1796 (a junior objective synonym of *Acarus* Linnaeus, 1758).

(5) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro* [var.]² *farinae* (a junior objective synonym of *siro* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro*, through the First Reviser selection made by Fabricius (J.C.) (1794)) (Name No. 517) ;
- (b) *scabicei* Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, as published in the combination *Acarus scabicei* (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for *scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro* [var.]² *scabiei*) (Name No. 518).

1. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT “ DIRECTION ”

In the course of the review of the entries made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of

² See Footnote 1.

1936 undertaken in connection with the preparations for the publication of that *List* in book-form, it was found that there were certain obscurities in the entry in regard to the generic name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] (Class Arachnida) made by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 113 which required to be clarified. These matters were accordingly investigated in the Office of the Commission and on 28th November 1957 the results of that investigation were submitted to the Commission by the Secretary in the following paper :—

**Proposed clarification of the entry relating to the generic name
“*Sarcoptes*” Latreille, [1802—1803] (Class Arachnida) made
on the “Official List of Generic Names in Zoology”
by the Ruling given in “Opinion” 113**

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

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

The purpose of the present note is to obtain from the International Commission a clarification of the entry relating to the generic name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] (Class Arachnida) made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 113. A decision on this is now urgently required in view of the impending publication of the *Official List* in book-form.

2. The Ruling (then styled “Summary”) given in *Opinion* 113 reads as follows :—

Sarcoptes Latreille dates from 1802 instead of 1804 or 1806 as frequently quoted. It was originally monotypic, containing only *Acarus scabiei*. The 1810 type designation of *Acarus passerinus* is invalid under Article 30c and 30eα. The acceptance of *Acarus scabiei* as type species of *Acarus* is invalidated by Article 30g, according to which *Acarus siro* (syn. *farinae*) is the type of *Acarus*. *Sarcoptes* Latr., 1802, mt. *scabiei* is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names.

3. Before we examine the issue involved in this case, it may be convenient to restate the foregoing Ruling stripped of the obscurities inherent in the extremely condensed style of drafting current in the days when *Opinion* 113 was rendered :—

The generic name *Sarcoptes* dates from 1802 [actually from [1802—1803]] (*Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 67) instead of 1804 [actually [1803—1804]] (*ibid.* 7 : 409) or 1806 [actually [1803—1804]] (*ibid.* 8 : 54—55) as frequently stated. It was originally monotypic, containing only *Acarus scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 616). The 1810 type selection by Latreille (*Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arach. Ins.*) of *Acarus passerinus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*loc. cit.* 1 : 616) is invalid under Article 30 (Rules (c) and (e)(α)). The acceptance of *Acarus scabiei* as the type species of *Acarus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*loc. cit.* 1 : 615) is invalidated by Rule (g) in Article 30, according to which *Acarus siro* Linnaeus, 1758 (*loc. cit.* 1 : 616) (synonym : *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758 (*loc. cit.* 1 : 616)) is the type species of *Acarus* Linnaeus. The name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803], type species by monotypy : “*scabiei*”, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

4. It will be noted that in the expanded version of the Ruling in *Opinion* 113 given in the immediately preceding paragraph the bibliographical references for the names cited have been added in all cases and, where necessary, the dates given in the above *Opinion* have been corrected. What has not been done however is to correct the combination given for the specific name *scabiei* Linnaeus or to cite the original combination for the name “*farinae*” Linnaeus. This is because it is in regard to these matters that the point discussed in the present note comes up for attention.

5. Reference to the 10th edition of the *Systema Naturae* (: 616) shows that the species (*Acarus siro*) there cited as Species No. 15 of the genus *Acarus* was described in two sections, the term “*farinae*” being applied to the first of these sections and the term “*scabiei*” to the second. These terms have been accepted by later workers as varietal names and it is not proposed that the validity of that practice should be called into question. What must be noted however is that between them *farinae* and *scabiei* cover the whole of the content of the nominal species *Acarus siro* Linnaeus. In other words—to use modern terminology—the type specimen either of *farinae* or of *scabiei* must be the same specimen as is the type specimen of the nominal species *Acarus siro* Linnaeus, since otherwise it would be impossible to attach any meaning to that nominal species. The question to be considered is therefore (1) whether *farinae* is objectively synonymous with *siro*, in which case *scabiei*, described as *Acarus siro* var. *scabiei* could be treated as being available for the species to which it has commonly been applied, or (2) whether *scabiei* is objectively synonymous with *siro*, in which case *farinae*, as described as *Acarus siro* var. *farinae*, could be treated as being available for the species to which was applied by Linnaeus. What is required therefore is to find the first author in the literature who realised that either the name *farinae* or the name *scabiei* must be regarded as having precisely the same

meaning as *siro* itself and who therefore sank one or other of the above names as a synonym of *siro*, while retaining the other name as an available name. This question is discussed below.

6. The first author to discuss identity of the taxa described by Linnaeus under the names *Acarus siro* and its varieties *farinae* and *scabiei* was De Geer (1778, *Mem. Ins.* 7 : 88—89) who clearly identified *scabiei* Linnaeus with the itch mite of Man and quadruped mammals and *farinae* Linnaeus with the flour mite. De Geer stated that the itch mite (*scabiei*) had been confused by Linnaeus under the name *Acarus siro*, but he made no mention of the latter nominal taxon when discussing *farinae* Linnaeus. De Geer cannot therefore be regarded as having, as a First Reviser, definitely identified the nominal taxon *Acarus siro* Linnaeus with *farinae* Linnaeus, although he clearly separated it from *scabiei* Linnaeus. Effective First Reviser action was however taken in 1794 (*Ent. syst.* 4 : 430) by Fabricius (J.C.) who sank *farinae* De Geer (i.e. *farinae* Linnaeus) as a junior synonym of *Acarus siro* Linnaeus and accepted *scabicei* [an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for *scabiei*] De Geer (i.e. *scabiei* Linnaeus) as a good species. Similar action was taken by Latreille in 1796 (*Précis Caract. Ins.* : 185) when he established a new nominal genus *Tyroglyphus* with what he called *Acarus siro* Linnaeus as type species by monotypy. He made it clear that in using this binomen he was referring to the species which he later wrote of as the “Ceron de fromage”, i.e. *farinae* Linnaeus, but he did not deal expressly with the taxon termed *scabiei* by Linnaeus. In [1802—1803] however, he returned to this subject in Volume 3 of the *Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* and this time he unquestionably identified *farinae* with *siro* and retained *scabiei* as the name *Acarus siro*. For on page 64 of the above volume he cited *Acarus siro* as an example of the genus *Acarus* Linnaeus and on page 67 he cited what he called *Acarus scabiei* as an example of his new genus *Sarcoptes*, of which, as the sole nominal specific taxon then cited, it became the type species by monotypy. Moreover, when dealing with *Acarus* in this volume Latreille recalled that in the *Précis* he had established the genus *Tyroglyphus* for the species to which, as in the *Précis*, he now applied the name *Acarus siro*, i.e. the “Ceron de fromage”. For assistance in dealing with this aspect of the present case grateful acknowledgement is made of valuable assistance received from Dr. Benjamin Schwartz (*U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Animal Disease and Parasite Research Division, Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.*).

7. From the particulars given above we see that as the result of the First Reviser action taken by Fabricius in 1794 the names *Acarus siro* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Acarus siro* var. *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758, are objective synonyms of one another. Accordingly the name *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758, is an objectively invalid name. On the other hand,

as the result of the same action by Fabricius the name *Acarus siro* var. *scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758, becomes the oldest available name for the itch mite and the valid name for the type species of the genus *Sarcoptes* Latreille. This conclusion, it will be noted (from the extract quoted in paragraph 2 above), corresponds exactly with those reached by the Commission in 1929 in its *Opinion* 113, where *farinae* Linnaeus was sunk as a junior synonym of *siro* Linnaeus and the name *scabiei* Linnaeus was accepted as a nomenclatorially available name and in consequence was treated as the valid name for the type species of the genus *Sarcoptes* Latreille. It is particularly desirable that the action needed to complete that taken nearly thirty years ago in the *Opinion* cited above should be taken with as little further delay as possible, for, until this is done, there is a risk that authors may be misled into following Vitzthum who in the volume concerned in Bronn's *Thierreich* (a) identified *scabiei* with *siro* (in spite of the valid action in the opposite sense taken by Fabricius in 1794) (paragraph 6 above), and placed that species in the genus *Acarus* Linnaeus (: 891), at the same time sinking *Sarcoptes* Latreille as a synonym of that generic name (: 8) and (b) adopted the invalid name *farinae* Linnaeus for the species of which the correct name is *siro* Linnaeus, placing that species in the genus *Tyroglyphus* Latreille. This incorrect treatment on Vitzthum's part of the generic names here in question arises from the fact that the nominal species *Acarus siro* Linnaeus is without doubt the type species of *Acarus* Linnaeus (by selection by Latreille, 1810, *Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 425, 132) and in consequence the application of that generic name turns upon the interpretation of the type species of the genus in question. Vitzthum's treatment of *Tyroglyphus* would have been correct, if his interpretation of *Acarus siro* had been correct, but, as we have seen, he fell into error on this subject by ignoring or overlooking the action by Fabricius in 1794, with the result that his treatment of the name *Tyroglyphus* Latreille was also incorrect. Actually, as already noted, the name *Tyroglyphus* Latreille is a junior objective synonym of *Acarus* Linnaeus, the two genera having the same nominal species as type species, namely *Acarus siro* Linnaeus, 1758, as interpreted by Fabricius (1794) as First Reviser, namely as being identical with *Acarus siro* var. *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758.

8. We are now in a position to summarise as follows the action which the International Commission is recommended to take for the purpose of completing the entry relating to the generic name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 113, namely that it should :—

- (1) substitute on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the following revised entry relating to the generic name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] for the entry made thereon by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 113 :—

542 *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] (gender : masculine)

(type species, by monotypy : *Acarus siro* var. *scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758) ;

- (2) place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Acarus Linnaeus, 1758 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Latreille (1810) : *Acarus siro* Linnaeus, 1758, as interpreted by Fabricius (J.C.) (1794) as being objectively identical with *Acarus siro* var. *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758) ;

- (3) place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro* var. *scabiei* (specific name of type species of *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803]) ;

(b) *siro* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro* and interpreted as specified in (2) above (specific name of type species of *Acarus* Linnaeus, 1758) ;

- (4) place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Tyroglyphus Latreille, 1796 (a junior objective synonym of *Acarus* Linnaeus, 1758) ;

- (5) place the under-mentioned names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro* var. *farinae* (a junior objective synonym of *siro* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro*, through the action of Fabricius (1794)) ;

(b) *scabicei* Fabricius (J.C.), 1794 (: 430), as published in the combination *Acarus scabicei* (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for *scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Acarus siro* var. *scabiei*).

2. Registration of the present application : When it became evident that certain clarifications of the Ruling in regard to the generic name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] given in *Opinion* 113 would be required before the *Official Lists* were published in book form, the problems so involved were allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1134.

II. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

3. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)27 : On 4th December 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(57)27) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the completion of the entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in regard to the generic name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802—1803] (Class Arachnida, Order Acarina), made by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 113, as set out in Points (1) to (5) in paragraph 8 of the paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)1134 [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*] submitted by the Secretary simultaneously with the present Voting Paper".

4. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 4th January 1958.

5. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)27 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)27 was as follows:—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-three (23) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Boschma ; Mertens ; Vokes ; Mayr ; Hering ; Prantl ; Miller ; Cabrera ; Stoll ; Hemming ; Bonnet ; Lemche ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Kühnelt ; Jaczewski ; Dymond ; do Amaral ; Bodenheimer ; Hankó ; Riley ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Tortonese ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, one (1) :*

Esaki.³

6. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 5th January 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.) (57)27, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 5 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

7. Method adopted for citing two names published by Linnaeus in 1758 in association with the name "Acarus siro" : During the Prescribed Voting Period correspondence took place between the Secretary and Professor J. Chester Bradley on the question of the method to be adopted in citing the names *farinae* and *scabiei* published by Linnaeus in 1758 in association with the name *Acarus siro*. These names were published without comment to denote varieties or sections of the foregoing nominal species. In the application submitted in this case Mr. Hemming had taken the view that Linnaeus had regarded the taxa *farinae* and *scabiei* as "varietates" of *Acarus siro* and he had accordingly cited these names as *Acarus siro* var. *farinae* Linnaeus and *Acarus siro* var. *scabiei* Linnaeus respectively. Professor Chester Bradley took the view that the unqualified use of the abbreviation "var." in this way was not correct, having regard to the fact that Linnaeus had not employed any term to denote the status of the foregoing taxa, and suggested that it might in the circumstances be better to employ the less definite term "Sectio".⁴ Mr. Hemming, while accepting the general point raised, considered that the unqualified use of the term "Sectio" was open to the same objection as was the unqualified use of the term "var." and in addition that the use of the term "Sectio" in this connection was open to the further objection that there was no ground for supposing that,

³ Shortly after the close of the Prescribed Voting Period information was received that Professor Esaki had died during that Period on 14th December 1957.

⁴ Later (in a letter dated 22nd March 1958) Professor Chester Bradley withdrew the suggestion here referred to.

if Linnaeus had applied a term to denote the status of the taxa concerned, he would have so applied the unusual word "Sectio". As the result of further consideration Mr. Hemming reached the conclusion that the proper course would be to employ the word "varietas" (in the abbreviated form "var.") in these cases, subject to the use of some formula to make it clear that the above word had not actually been employed by Linnaeus in this context; for in his writings on plants Linnaeus had clearly recognised the concept "varietas" and, as he had applied to the naming of animals the same rules as those which he had earlier elaborated for the naming of plants, it would be reasonable to conclude that he recognised the same concept in relation to animals and therefore that it was as "varietates" of *Acarus siro* that he had regarded the taxa to which he applied the names *farinae* and *scabiei* respectively. As regards the formula to be employed for the purpose of showing that the word "var." had not actually been employed by Linnaeus when publishing the foregoing names Mr. Hemming took the view that in the circumstances the most satisfactory course would be to enclose in square brackets the word "var.", when cited in this connection, for this formula was in current use for the citation of items not actually specified in any given work, e.g. (a) when citing the date of a name in cases where that date had been determined by reference to sources other than the actual book concerned and (b) as a means for distinguishing the first edition of a book in cases where two or more editions were published and where inevitably the first edition was not marked as such on its title page. Accordingly, on 8th January 1958 as a preliminary to the preparation of the Ruling to be included in the *Direction* required for the purpose of giving effect to the vote taken by the Commission on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.) (57)27, Mr. Hemming executed a Minute directing that in the Ruling so to be prepared the two names in question be cited as *Acarus siro* [var.] *farinae* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Acarus siro* [var.] *scabiei* Linnaeus, 1758, respectively.

8. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Direction" : On 8th January 1958 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)27.

9. Original References : The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Direction* :—

Acarus Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 615

farinae, *Acarus siro* [var.], Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 616

scabicei, *Acarus*, Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, *Ent. syst.* 4 : 430

scabiei, *Acarus siro* [var.], Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 616

siro, *Acarus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 616

Tyroglyphus Latreille, 1796, *Précis Caract. Ins.* : 185

10. Selection of a type species for a nominal genus : The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus specified in the Ruling given in the present *Direction* :—

For <i>Acarus</i> Linnaeus, 1758	Latreille, 1810, <i>Consid. gén. Anim.</i> <i>Crust. Arach. Ins.</i> : 425, 132
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11. Reference for a First Reviser Selection determining the identity of the nominate subspecies of a nominal species specified in the Ruling given in the present “ Direction ” :

For <i>Acarus siro</i> Linnaeus, 1758, identification of <i>Acarus siro</i> [var.] <i>farinae</i> Linnaeus, 1758, as representing the nominate subspecies of	Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, <i>Ent. syst.</i> 4 : 430
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12. Family-Group-Name Aspects : The family-group-name aspects of the present case have been postponed for further

investigation in order that at a later date comprehensive proposals may be placed before the Commission in regard to the family-group-name problems arising in connection with all the names of genera belonging to the Class Arachnida placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936.

13. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the undersigned Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. "Direction" Number : The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction* Ninety-Four (94) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Eighth day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING



International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1958. "Direction 94 Clarification of the entry relating to the generic name *Sarcoptes* Latreille, [1802–1803] (class Arachnida) made on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology by the rules given in Opinion 113." *Opinions and declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 1F, 73–86.

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