

REQUEST FOR A RULING TO CORRECT HOMONYMY IN NAMES
OF THE FAMILY-GROUPS BASED ON *PLETHODUS* (PISCES) and
PLETHODON (CAUDATA). Z.N.(S.) 1803

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When homonymy exists between family-group names based on similar but not identical names of type-genera, the case is to be referred to the International Commission (1964, International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Art. 55(a)). A case of homonymy involves the family-group name PLETHODONTIDAE, in current use both in Amphibia (Caudata) and Pisces (Osteoglossiformes).

Plethodon Tschudi, 1838, is the type-genus of the family-group name PLETHODONTIDAE Gray, 1850. This family, the lungless salamanders, consists of 23 genera and about 185 species limited to the New World except for two species in southern Europe (Wake, 1966).

Plethodus Dixon, 1850, is the type-genus of the family-group name PLETHODIDAE Loomis, 1900. This family of fossil osteoglossoid fishes consists of about eight genera known from the Upper Cretaceous of Europe, North Africa, and North America (Bardack, 1965). Loomis (1900) clearly proposed a new family PLETHODIDAE for *Plethodus*, *Thryptodus*, and *Pseudothryptodus*, but for some inexplicable reason he introduced the teleost section of his paper with "Plethodidae A. S. Woodward." As a result several authors (e.g., Hay, 1929) have credited Woodward with authorship of the family PLETHODIDAE.

In his 1902 catalogue, Hay referred to Loomis (1900) as "Plethodidae, part" under OSTEOGLOSSIDAE. But then in his second edition (1929), he used the heading "Plethodontidae Woodward" and credited the description of the family to Woodward, 1912, even though he again listed Loomis (1900) with the notation PLETHODIDAE. The Zoological Record for 1936 used PLETHODONTIDAE as did Weiler (1935) and Stromer (1936). Most other workers have used either PLETHODIDAE (Berg, 1940, 1955; Bertin and Arambourg, 1957; Bardack, 1965) or THRYPTODONTIDAE (described by Jordan, 1923 : 119, as a substitute name) to avoid homonymy with the salamander family but several recent authors (e.g. Romer, 1945; Greenwood et al., 1966) have used PLETHODONTIDAE for the fossil fish family. Romer (1966) used THRYPTODONTIDAE with PLETHODONTIDAE in parentheses and on page 63 used only the former.

Both generic names, *Plethodon* and *Plethodus*, result in the family name PLETHODONTIDAE because *odon* is a variant of *odous* and they each have the genitive *odontos* (Brown, 1954). Because the salamander family is much larger and far better known to both laymen and specialists than the fossil fish family, it seems most reasonable to continue to use PLETHODONTIDAE for the salamanders. Also, two other names have been used for the fossil fishes, the incorrectly formed PLETHODIDAE and the substitute name THRYPTODONTIDAE. PLETHODIDAE is the earlier name and has been used more often so the Commission is requested:

- (1) to rule under the plenary powers that PLETHODIDAE is to be accepted as the correct spelling of the family-group name based on *Plethodus* Dixon, 1850;
- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Plethodon* Tschudi, 1838 (:92) (gender : masculine), type-species, by subsequent designation by Bibron (in Bonaparte, 1839, *Icon. Fauna Ital.* 2 (26), sign. 131**, *Euproctus platycephalus* [4]) in proposing *Phatnomatorhina* as a substitute name for *Plethodon*, *Salamandra glutinosa* Green, 1818 (Caudata);
 - (b) *Plethodus* Dixon, 1850 (:394) (gender : masculine), type-species, by subsequent designation by Woodward, 1899, *Plethodus expansus* Dixon, 1850 (Pisces);
- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *glutinosa* Green, 1818 (:357), as published in the binomen *Salamandra glutinosa* (type-species of *Plethodon* Tschudi, 1838) (Caudata);
 - (b) *expansus* Dixon, 1850 (:394), as published in the binomen *Plethodus expansus* (type-species of *Plethodus* Dixon, 1850) (Pisces);
- (4) to place the following family-group names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) PLETHODONTIDAE Gray, 1850 (:31) (type-genus *Plethodon* Tschudi, 1838) (Caudata);
 - (b) PLETHODIDAE Loomis, 1900 (: 229) (type-genus *Plethodus* Dixon, 1850) (Pisces);
- (5) to place the following family-group name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) PLETHODONTIDAE Hay, 1929 (type-genus *Plethodus* Dixon, 1850) (Ruled under the plenary powers to be an incorrect spelling for PLETHODIDAE Loomis 1900) (Pisces).

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