

Case 2806***Zanclea costata* Gegenbaur, 1856 (Cnidaria, Hydrozoa): proposed conservation of both generic and specific names**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the generic and specific names of *Zanclea costata* Gegenbaur, 1856, familiar in the nomenclature of hydroids and hydromedusae. The names are threatened by the unused or seldom-used senior subjective synonyms *Acrochordium* Meyen, 1834, and *Mnestra* and *M. parasites*, both of Krohn (1853).

1. Meyen (1834, p. 165, pl. 28, fig. 8) established the new generic and specific names *Acrochordium album* for a hydroid found on pelagic *Sargassum natans* in the vicinity of the Azores. The generic name was considered to be a junior synonym of *Coryne* Gaertner, 1774 (p. 40) by J.L.R. Agassiz (1862, p. 185), Bedot (1905, p. 40) and Stechow (1923, p. 36). *Acrochordium* has not been used as valid since it was founded.

2. I re-examined the original description of *Acrochordium album* Meyen, 1834 and noted (Calder, 1988, p. 69) that it is a stolonial athecate hydroid with numerous capitate tentacles scattered over an elongate hydranth. Based on the description and illustrations provided by Meyen I concluded that it was congeneric with *Zanclea* Gegenbaur, 1856 (p. 229), rather than with *Coryne* Gaertner, 1774, and possibly conspecific with *Zanclea costata* Gegenbaur, 1856 (p. 229, pl. 8, fig. 4), the type species of *Zanclea* by monotypy. The name *Z. costata* was based on a medusa from the Mediterranean.

3. The infrequently used generic name *Mnestra* was established by Krohn (1853, p. 281) for the single species *Mnestra parasites* Krohn, 1853 (p. 281), also from the Mediterranean. This name was based on a medusa now known to have been deformed through parasitization by juvenile stages of the nudibranch mollusc *Phylliroe bucephala* Péron & Lesueur, 1810 (see Ankel, 1952, p. 118 and Rees, 1953, p. 219; Krohn thought, incorrectly, that the medusa was parasitic on the mollusc). Krohn's taxon is regarded as conspecific with *Zanclea costata* Gegenbaur, 1856 (see Rees, 1953, p. 221; Picard, 1957, p. 6; Martin & Brinckmann, 1963, p. 207; Bouillon, 1985, p. 121). Although valid under the Code, the name *Mnestra parasites* has always been used in the context of parasitized medusae. Both the generic name *Mnestra* and the specific name *parasites* have been unused as valid since Kramp (1961, p. 53) noted that *M. parasites* was 'probably identical' with *Zanclea costata*.

4. The generic name *Zanclea* Gegenbaur, 1856 has been extensively used in the nomenclature of both hydroids and hydromedusae for more than a century (see, for example, J.L.R. Agassiz, 1862, p. 344; Bouillon, 1985, p. 121; Calder, 1988, p. 69; His

Majesty the Showa Emperor Hirohito, 1988, p. 61; Petersen, 1990, p. 141). A representative list of five additional important works in which the name has been used, published between 1953–1991, is held by the Commission Secretariat (these works also include references to the widely used specific name *costata* Gegenbaur, 1856). The family name ZANCLEIDAE, established by Russell (1953, p. 98), is also currently in widespread use. Replacement of *Zanclea* with either of the little-known earlier subjective synonyms *Acrochordium* Meyen, 1834 or *Mnestra* Krohn, 1853 would cause considerable disturbance to hydrozoan nomenclature. I propose that the latter two names be suppressed.

5. Picard (1957, p. 6, footnote) recognized that the names *Mnestra* and *M. parasites*, both of Krohn (1853), had priority over *Zanclea* and *costata* but adopted Gegenbaur's (1856) names in the expectation that the Commission would not allow *Zanclea* and *costata* to be abandoned. However, Picard never submitted a case to the Commission to settle the matter.

6. In addition to *Mnestra parasites*, I have previously discussed (Calder, 1988, p. 70) three other possible senior subjective synonyms of *Zanclea costata*: *Acrochordium album* Meyen, 1834, *Coryne sessilis* Gosse, 1853 (p. 208, pl. 14, figs. 1–3) and *Tubularia implexa* Alder, 1856 (p. 439). The name *T. implexa* Alder (December 1856) is now known to have been published later than *Z. costata* Gegenbaur (July 1856); moreover, there is evidence suggesting that it is a different species (see Rees & Roa, 1966). Taxonomic questions remain about *Z. alba* (Meyen), *Z. sessilis* (Gosse) and *Z. implexa* (Alder), however, and the relationships of these three to *Z. costata* Gegenbaur are unsettled. In discussing the genus Petersen (1990, p. 141) concluded that 'the delimitation of *Zanclea* species is presently in a state of chaos'. Accordingly, I consider it inadvisable to request the suppression of specific names other than *parasites* in this case.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) the generic names:
 - (i) *Acrochordium* Meyen, 1834;
 - (ii) *Mnestra* Krohn, 1853;
 - (b) the specific name *parasites* Krohn, 1853, as published in the binomen *Mnestra parasites*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Zanclea* Gegenbaur, 1856 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Zanclea costata* Gegenbaur, 1856;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *costata* Gegenbaur, 1856 (specific name of the type species of *Zanclea* Gegenbaur, 1856);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Acrochordium* Meyen, 1834, as suppressed in (1)(a)(i) above;
 - (b) *Mnestra* Krohn, 1853, as suppressed in (1)(a)(ii) above;
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *parasites* Krohn, 1853, as published in the binomen *Mnestra parasites* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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