

**Case 2481*****Elachista* Treitschke, 1833 (Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed conservation, and confirmation of type species designation**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is the conservation of the name *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833 (leaf-mining microlepidoptera) by the suppression of the unused senior homonym *Elachista* Kollar, 1832. In addition the Commission is asked to confirm that the type species of *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833, is *E. bifasciella* Treitschke, 1833.

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1. *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833 (p. 177), was established for 17 species, all small microlepidoptera, now placed in several genera and families. The usage of this generic name was subsequently restricted by several authors to a large genus of microlepidoptera with larvae which are leaf-miners in the monocotyledonous families Cyperaceae, Poaceae and Juncaceae; this connotation of the name became firmly established following Frey (1859, p. 172) and has been universally accepted ever since. Bruand (1850, p. 50) proposed the family name ELACHISTIDAE, based on the same interpretation of *Elachista* as Frey, and this has also been widely accepted. A representative list of references is held by the Commission Secretariat.

2. Although *Elachista* Treitschke had been consistently used as the supposedly valid name for a large and widely distributed genus of ELACHISTIDAE since Frey (1859), the first type species designation in accordance with this usage was by Meyrick (1915, p. 210) of *Elachista bifasciella* Treitschke, 1833. There are, however, two earlier hitherto overlooked or ignored type species designations by Duponchel: the first in 1838 (p. 25) was *Tinea complanella* Hübner, [1817], and the second in [1845] (p. 221) was *Tinea blanchardella* Fabricius, 1781. *T. complanella* is the type species of *Tischeria* Zeller, 1839 (TISCHERIIDAE) and *T. blanchardella* is currently placed in *Phyllonorycter* Hübner, [1822] (GRACILLARIIDAE).

3. There is also an even earlier but unavailable type species designation for *Elachista*, *Elachista canifoliella* Treitschke, 1833, by Boisduval (1836, p. 138). Under Art. 69 a (iv), the type species designation of an author is eligible for consideration if he states that it is the type '...and if it is clear that that author accepts it as the type species'. Boisduval's type designations, although clearly stated, do not fulfil the last requirement and so are unavailable. Even though Boisduval's 1836 work was well known to lepidopterists, the type designations in it have not been accepted.



4. It has also been overlooked that *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833, is a junior homonym of *Elachista* Kollar, 1832 (p. 98). *Elachista* was a Treitschke manuscript name, obtained from a copy of his unpublished manuscript and made available by Kollar before the genus was described and named by Treitschke in 1833. *Elachista* Kollar, 1832, originally included four species, none of which belong to *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833, as used by and since Frey (1859). *Elachista* Kollar, 1832 has to our knowledge never been used subsequent to its original proposal and its introduction now would greatly upset usage.

5. As *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833, has been almost consistently used for the large and world-wide elachistid genus since Frey (1859) and as the family name ELACHISTIDAE is equally used, we consider that the general current usage should be maintained.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Elachista* Kollar, 1832, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous designations of type species for *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833, prior to that of Meyrick, 1915;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833, type species by subsequent designation by Meyrick (1915) *Elachista bifasciella* Treitschke, 1833;
- (4) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *bifasciella* Treitschke, 1833, as published in the binomen *Elachista bifasciella* (specific name of the type species of *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833);
- (5) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name ELACHISTIDAE Bruand, 1850 (type genus *Elachista* Treitschke, 1833);
- (6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Elachista* Kollar, 1832, as suppressed in (1) above.

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