

THE GENERIC NAME *MACROPUS* SHAW, 1790 (MAMMALIA).
Z.N.(S.) 1584

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The generic name *Macropus* Shaw, 1790 (*The Naturalists' Miscellany*, Pl. 33 and text) is commonly applied to the kangaroos, and in particular to the group of great kangaroos of which the Grey Kangaroo is a member. Its type-species is *Macropus giganteus* Shaw, 1790 (*loc. cit.*) a name universally accepted as a junior synonym of *Mus canguru* Statius Müller, 1776 (*Des Ritters C. von Linné . . . Supplementsband : 62, Nürnberg*). It is also a junior secondary homonym of *Jaculus giganteus* Erxleben, 1777 (*Syst. Règn. Anim. : 409*) which is itself a replacement name for *Mus canguru* Statius Müller.

At present there is no agreement on the applicability of the name *Mus canguru*. Iredale and Troughton (1937, *Rec. Aust. Mus.* 20 : 67-71 ; 1962, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales* 87 : 177-184) and Troughton (1941, *Furred Animals of Australia*, and subsequent editions) hold that *Mus canguru* is the name of the Whiptail Wallaby, while Raven (1939, *J. Mammal.* 20 : 50-57), Tate (1948, *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* 91 : 233-351), Morrison-Scott and Sawyer (1950, *Bull. Brit. Mus. nat. Hist.* 1 : 45-50), and ourselves (1962, *Mem. Qd. Mus.* 14 : 25-31) hold that it is the name of the Grey Kangaroo.

The Whiptail Wallaby and the Grey Kangaroo are commonly placed in separate genera and the name *Macropus* Shaw, 1790 is the earliest valid name for either. The ordinary application of the Code to this case will continue this state of instability, since the identification of the type-species cannot be made with absolute certainty. We therefore request the Commission to establish stability in this case. The facts are as follows :—

2. In 1770, Cook's party visited the Endeavour River in what is now Queensland, Australia, and obtained three specimens of kangaroos. An account of the voyage was subsequently published by Hawkesworth (1773, *An account of the voyage . . . in the Southern Hemisphere . . . by . . . Captain Cook* 3) who gave vernacular accounts of the specimens obtained.

3. In 1776, Statius Müller used Hawkesworth's account of one of these specimens (a young male weighing 38 lbs. shot by Lieutenant Gore on 14th July 1770) as the basis of a new name *Mus canguru*. He stated that it came from "Endeavour Rivier in Südamerica". This name was not subsequently used for any species of kangaroo or wallaby until 1937, when Iredale and Troughton re-introduced it (see 11 below).

4. In 1777, Zimmermann (*Specimen zoologiae geographicae . . . ; 526, Leyden*), independently of Statius Müller, gave the name *Yerboa gigantea* to the kangaroo of Cook's voyage. He also based his account on Hawkesworth, but mentioned an additional account by Banks (who accompanied the expedition) and the fact that a specimen of it had been taken alive from Africa to Holland. From the data given by Zimmermann, it is clear that his description embraces Hawkesworth's account of more than one of Cook's

specimens and hence possibly more than one species. Zimmermann's 1777 work has since been listed as not available for zoological nomenclature (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 547); thus *Yerboa gigantea* carries no more status than a vernacular name.

5. In 1777, Erxleben (*Syst. Règn. Anim.* : 409) and Schreber (*Säugethiere*, 3 : 552) used *giganteus* as the specific name of this species (by Erxleben with *Jaculus*, by Schreber with *Didelphys*). Page 409 of Erxleben's work was published before volume 3, page 552 of Schreber (see Sherborn *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1891 : 588 footnote) and in it *J. giganteus* is proposed as a replacement name for *M. kanguru* Statius Müller and is thus its objective synonym.

6. In 1790, Shaw used the generic name *Macropus* for the first time, and in combination with the name *gigantea*. The name *Macropus giganteus* forms the heading of the Latin text and the name "*Yerboa gigantea* Zimmermann" is included. The names proposed by Erxleben, Schreber, and Statius Müller are not mentioned, and other names given are in the vernacular. Since none of the names included is a valid name for the purposes of zoological nomenclature, *Macropus giganteus* Shaw, 1790 must be regarded as a new name and, by monotypy, as the type-species of *Macropus* Shaw.

7. In 1800, Shaw (*General Zoology* 1 : 505) proposed the name *Macropus major* as a replacement for *M. giganteus*. He cited *M. giganteus* Shaw, 1790, "*Didelphis gigantea* Gmelin", 1788, and "*Didelphis gigantea* Schreber", 1777 as synonyms. Schreber is known to have been familiar with Erxleben's work which preceded his (see above) and *D. gigantea* Schreber is merely *J. giganteus* Erxleben in a new combination. Further *J. giganteus* Erxleben is an objective synonym of *Mus kanguru* Statius Müller. Thus, *Macropus major* is an objective synonym of *Mus kanguru* Statius Müller (Article 72(d)).

8. Between 1950 and 1925, the authors of all major taxonomic works accepted the name *Macropus giganteus* (Zimmermann) for the Grey Kangaroo of Eastern Australia. (See Thomas, *Catalogue of the Marsupialia and Monotremata in the collection of the British Museum*, 1888; and Cabrera, *Monotremata Marsupialia, Genera Mammalium*. Madrid, 1919.)

9. In 1925, Iredale and Troughton (*Aust. Zool.* 3 : 311-316) introduced instability by presenting some evidence which, in their opinion, showed that the name *M. giganteus* did not refer to the Grey Kangaroo but to the Wallaroo, a species commonly known as *Macropus robustus* or *Osphranter robustus*.

10. In 1934, Iredale and Troughton ("Checklist of Mammals recorded from Australia", *Aust. Mus. Mem.* 6) listed the names *Mus kanguru* and *Yerboa gigantea* as synonyms which they referred to "Captain Cook's Kangaroo". They checklisted this "species" but gave no clue to its identity beyond referring to their earlier (1925) paper. They listed the Grey Kangaroo under the name *Macropus major* Shaw, 1800 (*General Zoology* 1 : 505), a name that was generally regarded as a junior synonym of *M. giganteus* (Zimmermann) and is an objective synonym of *Jaculus giganteus* Erxleben, 1777 and *Mus kanguru* Statius Müller, 1776. Iredale and Troughton (without comment) gave the type-locality of *Macropus major* Shaw as "Sydney, New South Wales".

11. In 1937, Iredale and Troughton revised their opinions on the identity

of *Mus canguru* and *Yerboa gigantea* and concluded that the species was that commonly called the Whiptail Wallaby. They dismissed the Grey Kangaroo and the Wallaroo. They called the Whiptail *Wallabia canguru* and placed the name *Yerboa gigantea* Zimmermann in synonymy. (*Wallabia* Trouessart, 1905 (*Cat. Mamm. viv. et foss. Suppl. fasc. IV : 834*) is commonly used for the group of wallabies with which the Whiptail is universally placed). Iredale and Troughton do not appear to have been aware that their action in calling the Whiptail *Mus canguru* also required the transfer of the generic name *Macropus* to these wallabies.

12. Subsequently, Raven (1939, *J. Mammal.* 20), Tate (1948, *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* 91), Morrison-Scott and Sawyer (1950, *Bull. Brit. Mus. nat. Hist.* 1) and ourselves (Calaby, Mack and Ride, 1962, *Mem. Qd. Mus.* 14 : 25-31) have concluded that it is probable that *Mus canguru* should be referred to the Grey Kangaroo. However, it is clear that Cook's expedition collected more than one species of MACROPODIDAE at the Endeavour River and the argument will continue as to which of these the name *Mus canguru* (and *Macropus giganteus*) should be referred. Unfortunately, no specimens from this expedition are extant and the three species involved in the argument are often placed in separate genera (*Macropus* Shaw, 1790, *Osphranter* Gould, 1842, *Wallabia* Trouessart, 1905, or *Protemnodon* Owen, 1874). Morrison-Scott and Sawyer attempted to solve the problem by designating a "photolectotype" for *Mus canguru*. This was a photograph of a skull of a kangaroo in the Royal College of Surgeons London (since destroyed) which was known to have been obtained on Cook's voyage. Unfortunately, there can be no question of lectotype since only one specimen is mentioned in the Statius Müller description of *M. canguru*.

13. Since the name *giganteus* in its various usages relating to kangaroos and wallabies is universally accepted as a synonym of *Mus canguru* Statius Müller, and since Shaw himself recognised the synonymy of *Macropus giganteus* Shaw and *D. gigantea* Schreber (and thus *Jaculus giganteus* Erxleben and *Mus canguru* Statius Müller), Ride (1963, in press) has selected the holotype of *Mus canguru* Statius Müller as the lectotype of *Macropus giganteus* Shaw, 1790. This specimen was among the material described in the accounts which Shaw used as the basis for his designation of his new species. Before lectotype selection all of this material was syntypical (Article 73(c)(i)). This action should be deemed to have been taken before our proposal to designate (below) a neotype for *Mus canguru*. *Macropus giganteus* Shaw, 1790 thus becomes a junior objective synonym of *Mus canguru* Statius Müller, 1776.

14. Doubts as to the identity of *Mus canguru* should be removed by the designation of a neotype for that species. Accordingly, we request that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature recognise as the valid neotype of the nominal species *Mus canguru* Statius Müller, 1776, the specimen of a Grey Kangaroo, male skin and skull, Queensland Museum No. J 10749, collected 24th November 1960, by D. P. Vernon and S. Breeden at Kings Plains, 20 miles south of the Endeavour River. This specimen is nominated and illustrated in Calaby, Mack and Ride (1961, *Mem. Qd. Mus.* 14 : 25-31, Pls. V-VIII).

15. Accordingly we request that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :

- (1) place the generic name *Macropus* Shaw, 1790 (gender : masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Mus canguru* Statius Müller, 1776, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology ;
- (2) place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology :
 - (a) *canguru* Statius Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Mus canguru*, as defined by the neotype designated in para. 13 above (type-species of *Macropus* Shaw, 1790) ;
 - (b) *major* Shaw, 1800, as published in the binomen *Macropus major* (type-locality Sydney, New South Wales, as restricted by Iredale and Troughton 1934, and supported by Tate 1948) ;
- (3) place the family-group name MACROPODIDAE (correction of MACROPIDAE) Gray, 1821 (*Lond. medic. Repos.* 15(1) : 308) (type-genus *Macropus* Shaw, 1790) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology ;
- (4) place the family-group name MACROPIDAE Gray, 1821 (type-genus *Macropus* Shaw, 1790) (an incorrect original spelling for MACROPODIDAE) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology.



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