

Case 2922

Octopus vulgaris Cuvier, [1797] and *Loligo vulgaris* Lamarck, 1798 (Mollusca, Cephalopoda): proposed conservation of the specific names

Angel Guerra

*Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas (CSIC), Eduardo Cabello 6,
36208 Vigo (Pontevedra), Spain*

Miguel A. Alonso-Zarazaga

*Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC), José Gutiérrez Abascal 2,
28006 Madrid, Spain*

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific names of both the common octopus *Octopus vulgaris* Cuvier, [1797] and the common squid *Loligo vulgaris* Lamarck, 1798. The names of these economically important species are threatened by senior subjective synonyms unused in the past century, *Sepia octopodia* Linnaeus, 1758 and *S. octopus* Gmelin, [1791] (octopus) and *S. loligo* Linnaeus, 1758 (squid).

1. The common octopus was described and named by Linnaeus (1758, p. 658) as *Sepia octopodia*. Schneider (1784, p. 116) used the binomen *Octopodia polypus* for the species but both his generic and specific names were suppressed by the Commission in Opinion 233 (April 1954). The same species was described as *Sepia octopus* by Gmelin ([1791], p. 3149).

2. Cuvier ([1797], p. 380) described the genus *Octopus*, cited *Sepia octopus* and proposed the replacement name *Octopus vulgare* [sic], presumably to avoid tautonymy. Opinion 233 (p. 278) gave the type species of *Octopus* Cuvier, [1797] 'by Linnean tautonymy (Opinion 16)' as *Octopus vulgaris* (correction of *vulgare*) Cuvier, [1797]. The reference to Linnean tautonymy is incorrect (cf. Article 69e(i) of the Code). This Opinion overlooked a prior designation of type species by Gray (1847, p. 205) who listed *Sepia octopus* as the type species for *Octopus* Cuvier, [1797]. Also, the senior synonyms *Sepia octopodia* Linnaeus, 1758 and *S. octopus* Gmelin, [1791] were not suppressed in the Opinion. Before 1920 the name *Polypus* Schneider, 1784 (p. 116) was sometimes used instead of *Octopus*. *Polypus*, like Schneider's name *Loligo* (see para. 5 below), was rejected in Opinion 233 as being a specific name.

3. According to priority the name for the common octopus should therefore be *Octopus octopodia* (Linnaeus, 1758), a binomen unused for over a century.

4. The common squid was described by Linnaeus (1758, p. 659) as *Sepia loligo*; the type species of *Sepia* is *S. officinalis* Linnaeus, 1758 (the common cuttlefish).

5. Lamarck (1798) described the genus *Loligo* and included (p. 130) *Loligo vulgaris* as the name for the common squid. The name '*Loligo*' has been ascribed to Schneider (1784, p. 110) but he used the name for a species only and '*Loligo*' Schneider, 1784 was rejected by the Commission in Opinion 233. The type species of

Loligo is *L. vulgaris* Lamarck, 1798 by subsequent designation by Children (1823, p. 167).

6. The name for the common squid should therefore be *Loligo loligo* (Linnaeus, 1758) but this binomen has never been used.

7. Since Cuvier's ([1797]) and Lamarck's (1798) descriptions the names *Octopus vulgaris* and *Loligo vulgaris* have been established in a vast literature on the common octopus and common squid respectively; a list of over 40 references for usage of each specific name is held by the Commission Secretariat. To adopt the usage of the senior subjective synonyms *octopodia* Linnaeus, 1758 or *octopus* Gmelin, [1791] for the octopus, or *loligo* Linnaeus, 1758 for the squid, would cause severe confusion and disruption to the nomenclature of these common and economically very important species.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *octopodia* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Sepia octopodia*;
 - (b) *octopus* Gmelin, [1791], as published in the binomen *Sepia octopus*;
 - (c) *loligo* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Sepia loligo*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Loligo* Lamarck, 1798 (gender: masculine), type species *Loligo vulgaris* Lamarck, 1798 by subsequent designation by Children (1823);
- (3) to amend the entry for *Octopus* Cuvier, [1797] on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology to record that the type species is *Sepia octopus* Gmelin, [1791] (suppressed senior objective synonym of *Octopus vulgaris* Cuvier, [1797]) by subsequent designation by Gray (1847);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *vulgaris* Lamarck, 1798, as published in the binomen *Loligo vulgaris* (specific name of the type species of *Loligo* Lamarck, 1798);
- (5) to amend the entry for *Octopus vulgaris* Cuvier, [1797] on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology to record that *vulgaris* Cuvier, [1797] is the valid junior objective synonym of *Sepia octopus* Gmelin, [1791], the type species of *Octopus* Cuvier, [1797];
- (6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *octopodia* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Sepia octopodia* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *octopus* Gmelin, [1791], as published in the binomen *Sepia octopus* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above;
 - (c) *loligo* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Sepia loligo* and as suppressed in (1)(c) above.

Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the financial support of research project 'Fauna Ibérica II', DGICYT PB89-0081. We thank Dr Gary Rosenberg for providing some useful references.

References

- Children, J.G. 1823. *Lamarck's genera of shells*. 177 pp. Murray, London. [Translated from French].
- Cuvier, G.L.C.F.D. [1797]. *Tableau élémentaire de l'histoire naturelle des animaux*. xvi, 710 pp., 14 pl. Baudouin, Paris.
- Gmelin, J.F. [1791]. *Caroli a Linné Systema Naturae*, Ed. 13, vol. 1, part 6 (Vermes). Pp. 3021–3910. Lugduni.
- Gray, J.E. 1847. A list of the genera of recent Mollusca, their synonyma and types. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, 1847: 129–219.
- Lamarck, J.B.P.A. de M. de. 1798. Sur les genres *Sèche*, *Calmar* et *Poulpe*. *Bulletin des Sciences, par la Société Philomatique de Paris*, 17: 129–131.
- Linnaeus, C. 1758. *Systema Naturae*..., Ed. 10, vol. 1. 824 pp. Salvii, Holmiae.
- Schneider, J.G. 1784. *Sammlung vermischter Abhandlungen zur Aufklärung der Zoologie und Handlungsgeschichten*. xvi, 348 pp., 1 pl. Reimer, Berlin.



Guerra, Angel and Alonso-Zarazaga, Miguel A. 1995. "OCTOPUS VULGARIS CUVIER, 1797 AND LOLIGO VULGARIS LAMARCK, 1798 (MOLLUSCA, CEPHALOPODA): PROPOSED CONSERVATION OF THE SPECIFIC NAMES." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 52, 24–26.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.6720>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44798>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.6720>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/6720>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.