

Case 2915***Lironeca* Leach, 1818 (Crustacea, Isopoda): proposed conservation as the correct original spelling**

Ernest H. Williams, Jr.

*Caribbean Aquatic Animal Health Project, Department of Marine Sciences,
University of Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 908, Lajas, Puerto Rico 00667*

Thomas E. Bowman

*Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History,
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.*

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve *Lironeca* Leach, 1818 as the correct original spelling of a genus of isopods which are parasites in the gill chambers of New World fishes. The name originally appeared as *Livoneca* due to a printer's error. Both *Lironeca* and *Livoneca* have been in use over the years but *Lironeca* has been more common in recent times.

1. Leach (1818, p. 351) in his article on the isopod family 'CYMOTHOADÉES, Cymothoadae' proposed a series of new generic names formed from anagrams of 'Caroline' and 'Carolina', viz. *Nelocira*, *Cirolana*, *Conilera*, *Rocinela*, *Canolira*, *Anilocra*, *Olencira* and *Nerocila*. Another generic name evidently intended to be an anagram of 'Caroline' was, through a printer's error, misspelled *Livoneca* (type species *L. redmanii* Leach, 1818 by subsequent designation by Gurjanova, 1936, p. 66). That these names were based on anagrams is a fact conceded even by those who argue that the genus must be spelled *Livoneca* because Article 32(c)(ii) of the Code requires that clear evidence of printer's error must be present 'in the original publication itself, without recourse to any external source of information'.

2. Supporters of *Livoneca* (e.g. Sivertsen & Holthuis, 1980, p. 36) maintain that there is no internal evidence in Leach's text that generic names were based on anagrams of Caroline and Carolina, since Leach did not specify the origin of his names.

3. We maintain that it is patently obvious from their constructions themselves that Leach formed five names as anagrams of Caroline and three names as anagrams of Carolina. This constitutes evidence 'in the original publication itself' and further evidence in the form of an explicit statement by Leach is not required. The handwritten 'r' and 'v' can be very similar and easily confused by a printer. The possibility must be infinitesimal that Leach based eight names on anagrams and deliberately formed another name that failed to be an anagram by a single easily mistaken letter. The argument in support of this possibility is the kind of pedantic legalism that exposes taxonomists to ridicule by other biologists.

4. In any case, unequivocal evidence for a printer's error, unfortunately not admissible under Article 32(c)(ii), is the discovery by Monod (1931, p. 5, footnote 2) that on the reprint sent to Latreille, Leach corrected the names *Livonèce* and

Livoneca to *Lironèca* and *Lironeca* every time that they occurred (eight times). There are other incorrect original spellings in Leach's paper: *Recinèle* (latinized as *Rocinela*), *Anilacre* (elsewhere spelt *Anilocra*), *Desmaretii* (for *Desmarestii*).

5. We have reviewed the literature in our data base (Bowman et al., in preparation) for the use of the *Lironeca* and *Livoneca* spellings in the last 50 years and over the period as a whole *Lironeca* predominates. The spelling *Livoneca* dominated from 1941 to 1960 (27 vs. 7), the two spellings were equally used from 1961 to 1970 (17 vs. 18) but *Lironeca* dominates in the more recent (1971–1990) literature (104 vs. 14) e.g. Williams & Bunkley-Williams, 1994; Bunkley-Williams & Williams, 1987; Bowman & Tareen, 1983. It would therefore be contrary to stability to 'revert' to *Livoneca*.

6. Although White (1847) was the first author to use the name *Lironeca* in print, he should not be considered the author of this name. White (1847, p. 109) gave Leach as the author of the genus *Lironeca*.

7. The subfamily name LIVONECINAE Schioedte & Meinert, 1884 (p. 325) is therefore also based on an incorrect original spelling and we consider that it should be corrected to LIRONECINAE Schioedte & Meinert, 1884 under Article 32c(iii) of the Code.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to rule that *Livoneca* is an incorrect original spelling of *Lironeca* Leach, 1818;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Lironeca* Leach, 1818 (gender: feminine) (spelling corrected in (1) above), type species by subsequent designation by Gurjanova (1936) *Livoneca redmanii* Leach, 1818;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *redmanii* Leach, 1818, as published in the binomen *Livoneca* [sic] *redmanii* (specific name of the type species of *Lironeca* Leach, 1818);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name LIRONECINAE Schioedte & Meinert, 1884 (type genus *Lironeca* Leach, 1818) (correction of LIVONECINAE);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Livoneca* Leach, 1818 (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *Lironeca* Leach, 1818);
- (6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name LIVONECINAE Schioedte & Meinert, 1884 (an incorrect original spelling of LIRONECINAE Schioedte & Meinert, 1884).

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