

OPINION 1658

Callionymus pusillus Delaroche, 1809 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes): specific name conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *dracunculus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Callionymus dracunculus*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *pusillus* Delaroche, 1809, as published in the binomen *Callionymus pusillus*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *dracunculus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Callionymus dracunculus* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2688

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Callionymus pusillus* Delaroche, 1809 was received from Dr R. Fricke (*Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany*) on 18 October 1988. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 46: 255–258 (December 1989). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment by Mr A. Wheeler (*Epping Forest Conservation Centre, Loughton, Essex, U.K.*), supporting conservation of the name *Callionymus pusillus* Delaroche, 1809 but not accepting its synonymy with *C. dracunculus* Linnaeus, 1758, was published in BZN 47: 48–50 (March 1990). A reply by the author of the application was published at the same time.

It was noted on the voting paper that, as mentioned in the application (para. 2), some workers consider *Callionymus dracunculus* and *C. lyra* Linnaeus, 1758 to be synonyms. The specific name in use (and that of the type species of *Callionymus*) is *lyra*, following the first reviser action of Neill (1811; see BZN 47: 49); the status of this name is not disturbed by the suppression of *dracunculus*.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1990 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 46: 256 (December 1989). At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1991 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 20: Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Halvorsen, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 8: Bayer, Dupuis, Hahn, Holthuis, Macpherson, Minelli, Ride and Savage.

Bayer commented: 'In view of the subjective nature of the evidence presented, I could support this application only if it were for relative precedence, not for total suppression of *Callionymus dracunculus* Linnaeus, 1758. Dr Fricke's rebuttal notwithstanding, *dracunculus* is potentially a composite species as Linnaeus did, in fact, cite two sources for it'. Dupuis said that the matter was taxonomic rather than nomenclatural.

Hahn commented: 'There is apparently no agreement between specialists, whether *dracunculus* is synonymous with *lyra* or with *pusillus*. Therefore, it would be better to give *pusillus* precedence over *dracunculus* than to suppress the older name'. Minelli commented: 'I would like to support Wheeler's comments, i.e. I agree with the conservation of *pusillus* Delaroche, 1809, but not with the suppression of the specific name *dracunculus*'. Holthuis and Ride commented that it would be possible (if necessary) to designate a specimen of *lyra* as type of the nominal species *dracunculus*, and the suppression of the latter name would not then be needed.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

dracunculus, *Callionymus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 249.
pusillus, *Callionymus*, Delaroche, 1809, *Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle Paris*, 13(77): 315.



International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1991. "Opinion 1658."
The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature 48, 274–275.

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