

THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE FAMILY NAME METRIDIIDAE
(COELENTERATA: ANTHOZOA)

Z.N.(S.)2263

(see vol. 36, part 1, pp. 53-56)

By R.B. Williams (2, Carrington Place, Tring, Herts., HP23 5LA)

The family name METRIDIIDAE has been applied both to anthozoans (Coelenterata) and to copepods (Arthropoda). Dunn and Hulsemann (1979) have suggested a satisfactory solution to this problem of homonymy but the name METRIDIIDAE applied to anthozoans and recommended for inclusion in the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology should be attributed not to Carlgren (1893) as stated, but to Gosse (1858).

2. Dunn and Hulsemann (1979) noted Gosse's (1859a) use of the name METRIDIADAE but regarded it as unavailable since it is apparently a *nomen nudum*. However, Gosse's book '*Actinologia Britannica. A History of the British Sea-Anemones and Corals. With Coloured Figures of the Species and Principal Varieties*' which bears the date 1860 on its title page is a second issue of '*Actinologia Britannica: A History of the British Sea-Anemones and Madreporae. With Coloured Figures of All the Species*' which was published in twelve parts during 1858 and 1859 (Williams, in preparation) and contains the first valid use of the name METRIDIADAE.

3. The name METRIDIADAE, with no definition, appears on p.9 of the second (book) issue of Gosse's (1859a) '*Actinologia Britannica*'. The leaves comprising pp. 7-10 of this book were originally published as a cancellans in part 12 (Gosse, 1859b) of the first (parts) issue to replace the original pp. 7-10 in part 1 (Gosse, 1858): on p.8 of part 1 the name METRIDIADAE was validly published with a definition, including the four genera *Metridium*, *Actinodendron*, *Thalassianthus* and *Actinaria*.

4. Despite the fact that Gosse made this substitution of pp. 7-10 in the parts issue (probably belatedly considering the original detailed account of the family irrelevant, as he thought it had no European representatives), his first version makes the name METRIDIADAE available. This has previously been overlooked because when parts issues were bound, the binders usually discarded the cancellandum. In the book issue, which was sold already bound, there is no indication that pp. 7-10 comprise a cancellans. It is necessary to examine a set of the parts as issued in wrappers to establish this fact, but they are very rare.

5. On the basis of the foregoing evidence, the anthozoan family name METRIDIADAE Gosse is not a *nomen nudum* and should be listed as METRIDIIDAE Gosse, 1858 (p. 8), taking priority over METRIDIIDAE Carlgren, 1893.

REFERENCES

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DUNN, D.F. & HULSEMAN, K. 1979. Metridiidae Carlgren, 1893 (Anthozoa) and Metridiidae Sars, 1902 (Copepoda): request for a ruling to

eliminate the homonymy. Z.N.(S.)2263. *Bull. zool. Nom.*, vol. 36, pp. 53-56.

GOSSE, P.H. 1858. *Actinologia Britannica: A History of the British Sea-Anemones and Madreporae. With Coloured Figures of All the Species.* Part 1. Van Voorst, London.

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SPHAERIIDAE IN MOLLUSCA AND INSECTA: COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS TO REMOVE THE HOMONYMY.

Z.N.(S.) 1892

(see *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 32, pp. 60-62, 201-204)

(1) By Paul J. Spangler (*National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. 20560, U.S.A.*)

I am at present preparing an article on the 'minute bog beetle' family SPHAERIDAE, SPHAERIIDAE, MICROSPORIDAE, or whatever name is eventually applied to them. Also I will soon be describing one or more new species of '*Sphaerius* Walzl' from South America. These studies have led me to the proposal on the homonymy in family-group names in the *Bull. zool. Nom.* and have prompted the following comments.

Because it seems clear that SPHAERIIDAE for the Mollusca has priority over its use in Insecta, my comments are directed at a replacement name for the beetle family. I am opposed to using the family name SPHAERIDAE (Insecta) versus SPHAERIIDAE (Mollusca) for the following reasons:

(1) The name SPHAERIDAE would be grammatically incorrect and thus a perpetual error; (2) both names will inevitably be mis-spelled in the literature from time to time in the future and will be a recurring nuisance from that standpoint; (3) both spellings are already very similar to others in general use, such as *Sphaeridium*, SPHAERIDIIDAE, *Sphaerites*, SPHAERITIDAE, etc. Emendations such as SPHAERIDAE, SPHAERIUSIDAE or SPHAERIURIDAE would not alleviate this excess of names based on similar stems.

Therefore I believe that the suggestion that 'it is better to rename the beetle family after a genus other than *Sphaerius*, if one exists' as suggested by Professor Tortonese (*Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 32, p. 60, 1975) and seconded by the late Dr Reichardt (vol. 32, p. 203, 1976) has considerable merit. In this case another name, *Microsporus* Kolenati, 1846, *Meletemata entomol.*, fasc. 5, p. 64 (type species of nominal genus, *M. obsidianus* Kolenati *ibid.*, by monotypy) exists as a synonym of *Sphaerius* Walzl. Although *Microsporus* was originally proposed for a subgenus of *Georyssus* Latreille, 1809, it was treated as a synonym of *Sphaerius* by Matthews, 1899, *Monograph of the Coleopterous families Corylophidae and Sphaeriidae* (London) and this synonymy has been accepted by subsequent coleopterists. I therefore support Reichardt's suggestion that *Microsporus* be made the



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