ON THE ACTION WHICH IT IS DESIRABLE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO
CORRECT THE ERRONEOUS ENTRY RELATING TO THE NAME
"ASTACUS" PALLAS, 1772 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)
MADE IN THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY"
BY "OPINION" 104

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)544)

(Extract from a letter dated 8th June 1951)

Thank you so much for your letter Z.N.(S.)544 of 6th June concerning *Astacus* Pallas, 1772 (*Spicil. Zool.* 9 : 81) type species : *Astacus dauuricus* Pallas, 1772 (*Spicil. Zool.* 9 : 81) monotypic.

As to your questions concerning Pallas's species I can give you the following information. *Astacus dauuricus* Pallas is a well recognisable species and the trivial name *dauuricus*, being the oldest name available for the species, at present still is in common usage. The species, however, is no longer retained in the genus *Astacus*, but is placed in a separate genus *Cambaroides* Faxon (1884, *Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts Sci.* 20 : 149) type : *Astacus japonicus* De Haan (1841, *Fauna japon. Crust.* (5) : 164, pl. 35 fig. 9) by subsequent designation Faxon (1898, *Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 20 : 665). Faxon (1884) described *Cambaroides* as a subgenus of *Astacus*, but Stebbing (1893, *Hist. Crust.* : 208) raised it to the rank of a genus, in which he is followed by all modern authors.

To me it seems highly desirable that the Commission should undertake steps to prevent the confusion, which undoubtedly will be the result if *Astacus dauuricus* Pallas is chosen to be the type species of the genus *Astacus*. From the two alternatives mentioned in your letter therefore I certainly would choose the second, and let the Commission use its plenary powers to make *Cancer astacus* Linnaeus (1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 631) the type species of the genus *Astacus*.

I would suggest therefore that the Commission should not place *Astacus* Pallas, 1772, on the *Official List*, but *Astacus* Fabricius, 1775 (*Syst. Ent.* : 413) type species : *Astacus fluviatilis* Fabricius (1775, *Syst. Ent.* : 413) (= *Cancer astacus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 631) type by subsequent selection (Latreille, 1810, *Consid. gén. Crust. Arachn. Ins.* : 422). Nearly all authors using the generic name *Astacus* attribute it to Fabricius, 1775.

Holthuis, L. B. 1952. "On the action which it is desirable should be taken to correct the erroneous entry relating to the Name "Astacus" Pallas, 1772 (class Crustacea, order Decapoda) made in the "Official List of generic names in Zoology" by "Opinion" 104." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 9, 118–118.
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