Suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, for the purpose of rendering the generic name *Acanthephyra* Milne Edwards (A.), 1881 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) the oldest available name for the genus concerned.
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 359

A. The Officers of the Commission

Honorary Life President: Dr. Karl Jordan (British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England)

President: Professor James Chester Bradley (Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.) (12th August 1953)
Vice-President: Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (Sao Paulo, Brazil) (12th August 1953)
Secretary: Mr. Francis Hemming (London, England) (27th July 1948)

B. The Members of the Commission

(Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology)

Professor H. Boschma (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands) (1st January 1947)
Senor Dr. Angel Cabrera (Eva Peron, F.C.N.G.R., Argentina) (27th July 1948)
Mr. Francis Hemming (London, England) (27th July 1948) (Secretary)
Dr. Joseph Pearson (Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia) (27th July 1948)
Dr. Henning Lemche (Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark) (27th July 1948)
Professor Tadeusz Jaczewski (Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland) (15th June 1950)
Professor Erich Martin Hering (Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany) (5th July 1950)
Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (S. Paulo, Brazil) (12th August 1953) (Vice-President)
Professor J. R. Dymond (University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada) (12th August 1953)
Professor J. Chester Bradley (Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.) (12th August 1953) (President)
Professor Harold E. Vokes (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.) (12th August 1953)
Professor Béla Hankó (Mezőgazdasági Múzeum Budapest, Hungary) (12th August 1953)
Dr. Norman R. Stoll (Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.) (12th August 1953)
Mr. P. C. Sylvester-Bradley (Sheffield University, Sheffield, England) (12th August 1953)
Dr. L. B. Holthuis (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands) (12th August 1953)
OPINION 359

SUPPRESSION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE GENERIC NAME "MIERSIA" KINGSLEY, 1879, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENDERING THE GENERIC NAME "ACANTHEPHYRA" MILNE EDWARDS (A.), 1881 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) THE OLDEST AVAILABLE NAME FOR THE GENUS CONCERNED

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers the generic name Miersia Kingsley, 1879, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name No. 882: Acanthephyra Milne Edwards (A.), 1881 (gender: feminine) (type species, by original designation: Acanthephyra armata Milne Edwards (A.), 1881) (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda).

(3) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Nos. 299 and 300 respectively: (a) Miersia Kingsley, 1879, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) above; (b) Ephyra Roux (P.), 1831 (a junior homonym of Ephyra Péron & Lesueur, 1810).

(4) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name No. 499: armata Milne Edwards (A.), 1881, as published in the combination Acanthephyra armata (specific name of type species of Acanthephyra Milne Edwards (A.), 1881).
On 21st September 1951 Dr. L. B. Holthuis (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands) submitted the following application to the Commission for the validation under the Plenary Powers of the generic name Acanthephyra Milne Edwards (A.), 1881 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda):—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to validate the generic name
“Acanthephyra” A. Milne Edwards, 1881 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda)

By L. B. HOLTHUIS
(Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands)

The present application relates to a generic name Acanthephyra A. Milne Edwards, 1881 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), which is in general use, but which is not the oldest available name for the genus concerned. The ruthless application of the Règles in the present case would give rise to much quite unnecessary confusion, and I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent this confusion by using their Plenary Powers in such a way as to permit the continued use of the above generic name.

2. The following are the original references to the generic names dealt with in the present application:—


3. The name Acanthephyra at present is in universal use for a large genus of deep-sea shrimps. This genus consists of about 28 species and is distributed throughout the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Several of the species are common and all the larger deep-sea expeditions brought home considerable quantities of specimens belonging to this
genus. In the zoological reports of practically all the deep-sea expeditions (e.g., Albatross, Ara, Atlantide, Atlantis, B.A.N.Z. Antarctic, Bermuda Oceanographic, Caudan, Challenger, Discovery, German South Polar, Helga, Ingolf, Investigator, John Murray, Michael Sars, Pawnee, Pickle, Pieter Faure, Plankton, Pola, Princesse Alice, Siboga, Thor, Valdivia, Washington) these shrimps have been described under the generic name Acanthephyra. In his revision of the family in which this genus belongs, Chace (1936, J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 26: 24—31) also used that generic name.

4. Now Alpheus pelagicus Risso, 1816, the type species of the genus Miersia Kingsley, 1879, proves to belong to the genus Acanthephyra (see Holthuis, 1947, Zool. Meded., 27 : 315). Thus Miersia Kingsley, 1879, is a subjective synonym of Acanthephyra A. Milne Edwards, 1881. The latter name, being the more recent of the two, according to the Law of Priority, has to be replaced by the former.

5. The name Miersia was proposed by Kingsley to replace the preoccupied generic name Ephyra P. Roux, 1831. Kingsley placed three species in this genus:

(1) Alpheus pelagicus Risso, 1816, which was indicated by Kingsley as the type species of Miersia,

(2) Pandalus punctulatus Risso, 1826 (Hist. nat. Europ. mérid. 5 : 80, fig. 7), a species incerta, and

(3) Ephyra compressa De Haan, 1844 (Fauna japon., Crust. (5) : pl. 46, fig. 7), the type species of the genus Paratya Miers, 1882 (family Atyidae).

6. As far as I know only three authors besides Kingsley have used the name Miersia for Acanthephyra. First, S. I. Smith in Bull. Mus. comp. Zool. 10 : 66—73. Two years later Smith (1884, Rep. U.S. Fish Comm. 10 : 372) abandoned Miersia in favour of Acanthephyra. In his 1884 paper Smith stated that he could not find any differences between the two genera, “but as Milne-Edwards probably had access to typical species of Miersia, Acanthephyra is most likely a distinct genus”. Carus (1885, Prodr. Faun. Medit. 1 : 481) in his rather uncritical compilation of the Mediterranean fauna mentions Miersia with two species M. pelagica and M. punctulata. Bate (1888, Rep. Voy. Challenger, Zool. 24 : 732, 733) in his large report on the Challenger Macrura, rejected the name Miersia on account of the fact that Kingsley, who had placed the genus in the family Atyidae, in the diagnosis of this family mentioned characters not present in Acanthephyra. Fowler (1912, Ann. Rep. New Jersey State Mus. 1911 : 548, 549) in his compilation of the New Jersey Crustacea correctly considered Miersia
and *Acanthephyra* to be identical and accordingly adopted the former name as being the older.  

7. The name *Miersia* furthermore has been used by some authors for species of the family *ATYIDAE*, obviously because Kingsley placed the Atyid shrimp *Paratya compressa* (De Haan) in this genus. Ortmann (1894, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* 1894 : 400), who in two previous publications had used the name *Miersia* for species of the genus *Paratya*, identified *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, with *Paratya* Miers, 1882 and *Xiphocaris* Von Martens, 1872, using the latter name for the genus. Ortmann excluded *Alpheus pelagicus* from *Miersia*, placing it in *Acanthephyra*. Holmes (1895, *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* (2) 4 : 577) described a new Atyid under the name *Miersia pacifica*. In 1900 the same author (Holmes, 1900, *Occ. Pap. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 7 : 211) erected a new genus (*Syncaris*) for his species and at the same time remarked that the name *Miersia* could not be used for Atyid shrimps, since its type species was *Alpheus pelagicus*. Finally, Bouvier (1925, *Encycl. entomol.* (A) 4 : 55) cited *Miersia* Kingsley as a synonym of *Paratya* Miers.

8. We thus see that the generic name *Acanthephyra* is in general use for a genus of deep-sea shrimps; at least 60 authors have used that name and it may be found in practically all reports dealing with the Decapoda Macrura of deep-sea expeditions. On the other hand the name *Miersia*, which is nomenclatorially the correct name for that genus, has been used for it by only four authors, one of whom later abandoned it in favour of *Acanthephyra*, while the publications of the other three authors have been of relatively very little importance for the study of this group. Moreover the name *Miersia* has been used by a number of authors for shrimps belonging to the family *ATYIDAE*. It is clear therefore that the change of the name *Acanthephyra* to *Miersia* is highly undesirable as it would involve the change of many well-known specific names and thus cause quite unnecessary confusion in carcinological literature. The concrete proposals which I accordingly submit for consideration are that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :

(1) use its Plenary Powers :—

(a) to suppress the generic name *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, and

(b) to validate the generic name *Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881 ;

(2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by original designation : *Acanthephyra armata* A. Milne Edwards, 1881) as validated in (1)(b) above ;
(3) place the generic names *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, as suppressed under (1)(a) above, and *Ephyra* Roux, 1831 (junior homonym of *Ephyra* Péron & Lesueur, 1810) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*;

(4) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *armata* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, as published in the binominal combination *Acanthephyra armata* (trivial name of type species of *Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881).

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application: Upon the receipt of Dr. Holthuis's application, the question of the validation of the generic name *Acanthephyra* Milne Edwards (A.), 1881, under the Plenary Powers was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 617.

3. Publication of the present application: The present application was sent to the printer on 30th January 1952 and was published on 22nd May 1952 in Part 7 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Holthuis, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl. 6*: 195—197).

4. Issue of Public Notices: Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl. 4*: 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 22nd May 1952 (a) in Part 7 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Holthuis's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Public Notice was given to a number of general zoological serial publications.
5. Comments received: The issue of the foregoing Public Notices elicited a letter of support from Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona, Spain), which is reproduced in the immediately following paragraph. No objection to the action proposed was received from any source.

6. Support received from Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona, Spain): On 25th February 1953 Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona) addressed a letter to the Commission intimating his support for a number of applications, including the present application, which had then recently been published in the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature. The following is an extract from Dr. Zariquiey's letter:

He recibido las Comisión's References Z.N.(S.) 616 (Euryrynchus), Z.N.(S.) 617 (Acanthephyra) . . . propuestas por el Dr. L. B. Holthuis, estando en todo conforme con las proposiciones del citado Doctor.

III.—THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)26: On 6th March 1954 a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)26) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the name Acanthephyra Milne Edwards (A.), 1881, as set out at the top of page 197 of volume 6 of the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature" [i.e. in paragraph 8 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present Opinion].

8. The Prescribed Voting Period: As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 6th June 1954.
9. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)26: The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)26 at the close of the Prescribed Voting Period was as follows:

(a) Affirmative Votes had been given by the following nineteen (19) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received):

Holthuis; Hering; Riley; Lemche; Vokes; do Amaral; Esaki; Sylvester-Bradley; Dymond; Bonnet; Boschma; Hankó; Hemming; Mertens; Pearson; Bradley (J. C.); Stoll; Jaczewski; Cabrera;

(b) Negative votes:

None;

(c) Voting Papers not returned:

None.

10. Declaration of Result of Vote: On 7th June 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)26, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 9 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

11. Family-group names: On 22nd September 1954 Dr. L. B. Holthuis (the applicant in the present case) notified the Commission that the genus Acanthephyra Milne Edwards is not currently considered to be the type genus of a family-group taxon. Accordingly no action at the family-group-name level is called for in the present case.
12. Note on the relative status of the generic names "Miersia" Kingsley, 1879, and "Acanthephyra" Milne Edwards: On 15th February 1955 Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, placed on the Commission's File Z.N.(S.) 617 the following Minute relating to the relative status of the generic names Miersia Kingsley, 1879, and Acanthephyra Milne Edwards (A.), 1881:

In his application regarding the names Miersia Kingsley, 1879, and Acanthephyra Milne Edwards (A.), 1881, Dr. Holthuis asked for the suppression under the Plenary Powers of the name Miersia Kingsley for the purpose of validating the use of the name Acanthephyra Milne Edwards. At the same time Dr. Holthuis pointed out that these nominal genera had different type species and that it was only through the subjective (taxonomic) identification of the species so named that the foregoing generic names were synonyms of one another. This situation has ceased to exist in consequence of the action taken by the Commission when in its vote on Voting Paper V.P. (54)26 it suppressed the generic name Miersia Kingsley. For by that action the name Acanthephyra Milne Edwards ceased to be a subjective synonym of an older name. It always was a nomenclatorially available name and it now becomes the oldest available name for the genus in question. Thus, the use of the Plenary Powers to suppress the subjective senior synonym Miersia Kingsley is all that is required to meet the object sought in the present case. The Plenary Powers are not needed to secure an objectively available basis for the name Acanthephyra Milne Edwards, since, as shown above, that name always possessed such a basis. Its only defect prior to the decision just taken by the Commission was that it was considered to be a junior subjective synonym of Miersia Kingsley and that defect has been removed by the suppression of Kingsley's generic name under the Plenary Powers. To sum up, the name Acanthephyra Milne Edwards required to be "validated" only in the sense that, until the name Miersia Kingsley had been suppressed, the name Acanthephyra could not be used as the name for the genus concerned by any taxonomist who regarded the species which are the respective type species of these two genera as being congeneric with one another.

2. In the light of the considerations set out above, I now, as Secretary direct that in the Ruling to be prepared to give effect to the decision taken by the Commission in the present case the record to be made of the use of the Plenary Powers be confined to a record of the use of those Powers for the suppression of the name Miersia Kingsley, this being the only use of those Powers required for the purpose of giving effect to the application submitted in this case and to the decision of the Commission thereon.

13. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion":
On 16th February 1955 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given
in the present Opinion and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)26, as clarified by the Minute by the Secretary dated 15th February 1955 (paragraph 12 above).

14. Original References: The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists and Official Indexes by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:—


15. At the time of the submission of the application dealt with in the present Opinion, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression “trivial name” and the Official List reserved for recording such names was styled the Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology, the word “trivial” appearing also in the title of the Official Index reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression “specific name” was substituted for the expression “trivial name” and corresponding changes are made in the titles of the Official List and Official Index of such names (1953, Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl. : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present Opinion.

16. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present Opinion is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary
to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

17. The present Opinion shall be known as Opinion Three Hundred and Fifty-Nine (359) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Sixteenth day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

FRANCIS HEMMING
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1955. "Opinion 359 Suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name Miersia Kingsley, 1879, for the purpose of Render Ing the generic name Acanthephyra Milne Edwards (a.), 1881 (class Crustacea, order Decapoda) the oldest available name for the genus concerned." *Opinions and declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 11, 139–150.

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