OPINION 1899

Meristella Hall, 1859 (Brachiopoda): *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842 designated as the type species

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Brachiopoda; Lower Devonian; Meristella; *Meristella laevis*.

**Ruling**

1. Under the plenary powers all fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Meristella* Hall, 1859 prior to the designation by Miller (1889) of *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842 are hereby set aside.

2. The name *Meristella* Hall, 1859 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Miller (1889) *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842, as ruled in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

3. The name *laevis* Vanuxem, 1842, as published in the binomen *Atrypa laevis* (specific name of the type species of *Meristella* Hall, 1859), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

**History of Case 3003**

An application for the designation of *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842 as the type species of *Meristella* Hall, 1859 was received from Dr F. Alvarez (Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain) on 13 November 1995. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 53: 182–183 (September 1996). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Prof A.J. Boucot (Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, U.S.A.), from Dr C.H.C. Brunton (The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.) and from Prof A.D. Wright (Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland, U.K.) were published in BZN 54: 50–51 (March 1997).

A further comment in support from Dr Sandra J. Carlson (University of California, Davis, California, U.S.A.) was published in BZN 54: 104 (June 1997).

**Decision of the Commission**

On 10 September 1997 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 53: 183. At the close of the voting period on 10 December 1997 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 24: Bock, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Dupuis, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song, Stys

Negative votes — none.

Bouchet abstained.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Abstaining, Bouchet commented: 'The application fails to document the consequences of adopting *Atrypa naviformis* Hall, 1843 as the type species of *Meristella* Hall, 1859. Is there type material in existence? I feel that there is insufficient
information for a vote’. Voting for, Cocks commented: ‘I strongly support this application. The status of *Meristella* has been uncertain for too long’.

**Original references**

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Laevis*, *Atrypa*, Vanuxem, 1842, *Natural History of New York*, p. 120.


The following is the reference for the designation of *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842 as the type of the nominal genus *Meristella* Hall, 1859:


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