A similar comment has been received from Prof Dr G. Hahn (Fachbereich Geowissenschaften, D-3550 Marburg (Lahn), Fed. Rep. Germany).

(2) Andrew Mackie
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Fredrik Pleijel
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The aims of Nilsen & Holthe's application are to retain two junior subjective synonyms: Myriochele Malmgren, 1867 and oculata Zaks, 1923. While we believe this desirable and agree with the suppressions proposed, we would like to draw attention to an overlooked point.

Nilsen & Holthe (BZN 46: 231, para. 12) regard Galathowenia Kirkegaard, 1959 as a junior synonym of Myriochele. There is, however, no consensus on this matter. Galathowenia and Myriochele are regarded as distinct valid genera in several recent works (Kirkegaard, 1983; Blake, 1984; Imagima & Morita, 1987) not referred to in the application. Myriochele oculata is regarded by several authors (Blake & Dean, 1973; Kirkegaard, 1983) as a senior synonym of Galathowenia africana Kirkegaard, 1959, the type species of Galathowenia.

Additional references


(3) Susan Chambers
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I would like to support the conservation of the names Myriochele Malmgren, 1867 and oculata Zaks, 1923 as proposed by Nilsen & Holthe (BZN 46: 229–232).
Comments on the proposed precedence of *Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901 (Arachnida, Araneae) over *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892
(Case 2662; see BZN 46: 165–166, 189–190)

(1) Robert J. Raven
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Levi & Kraus present a case for the precedence of *Aphonopelma* over the older *Rhechostica*. The information given in their application is incomplete, however. Nobody naming any material from central America or southern North America ever considered the taxonomic status of *Rhechostica* until I did so (Raven, 1985). The family THERAPHOSIDAE has not been revised, either in its entirety or in any region, including North America. A group so long left without revision becomes, as did the THERAPHOSIDAE, a nomenclatural and taxonomic nightmare.

Three generic names (*Eurypelma*, *Aphonopelma* and *Rhechostica*) have been applied to one species, *Eurypelma californicum* Ausserer, 1871. Despite all activities of taxonomists, U.S. experimentalists in fact persist in using the binomen *Eurypelma californicum* for this common U.S. spider used in physiological and anatomical studies. That species has been used only once in the combination *Aphonopelma californicum*. Hence, the name *Eurypelma* Koch, 1850 still ranks higher in usage than any other. Most of those uses refer to what some prefer to call *Aphonopelma*.

The name *Rhechostica* has not been forgotten by any cataloguer. The application by Levi & Kraus (1989) omits mention of Simon (1903) and Petrunkevitch (1928). The latest catalogue (Platnick, 1989) upholds the usage of *Rhechostica*. The most recent papers cited in the application are dated 1986. However, Raven (1985) was published in December of 1985 and since then a number of authors (e.g. Bevington, 1989; Harvey, 1989; Lowe, 1989; Schmidt, 1989; Smith, 1986, 1989) have cited *Rhechostica* as the senior synonym of *Aphonopelma*.

Many in the scientific world and the pet trade who keep in touch with the literature concerning names of animals have adopted *Rhechostica* since my careful study of the type species of all mygalomorph genera where some representative, if not the types, existed. My change was a change from total confusion to stability. The alternative is yet another change simply for the sake of name-changing.

No contention exists about the greater usage of *Aphonopelma* over *Rhechostica* in the past. However, *Eurypelma* is the most frequently used name for theraphosids in North America. Use of either *Aphonopelma* or *Eurypelma* is the result of incomplete studies. I consider that *Rhechostica* should be retained rather than *Aphonopelma*, so that the stability so far gained remains.

Additional references


