OPINION 1051

RHOPALIDIA LEPELETIER, 1836 (INSECTA: HYMENOPTERA):
SUPPRESSED UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers, the generic name Rhopalidia Lepeletier, 1836, is suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The generic name Rhopalidia Lepeletier, 1836, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2072.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 2017)

An application from Professor O. W. Richards (University of London, U.K.) for the suppression of the generic name Rhopalidia Lepeletier, 1836, was received on 26 July 1972. It was sent to the printer on 20 September 1972 and was published on 6 July 1973 in Bull. zool. Nomencl. 30 : 49–50. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the Bulletin as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; Bull. zool. Nomencl. 31 : 97) and to nine entomological serials. No comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 8 November 1974 the members of the Commission were asked to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (74)12 for or against the proposal for the suppression of the generic name Rhopalidia Lepeletier, 1836, as set out in Bull. zool. Nomencl. 30 : 49. At the close of the Voting Period on 8 February 1975 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—twenty-one (21), received in the following order: Melville, Vokes, Holthuis, Lemche, Simpson, Alvarado, Willink, Eisenmann, Rohdendorf, Mayr, Sabrosky, Tortonese, Starobogatov, Binder, Bayer, Corliss, Nye, Heppell, Ride, Bernardi, Habe

Negative votes—none (0)

Late Affirmative vote—one (1): Erben

Abstention—one (1): Dupuis

Leave of Absence—one (1): Brinck

Voting Papers not returned—two (2): Kraus, Munroe.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission in returning their Voting Papers:

M. Dupuis: Je refuse de voter car, à mon avis, c'est la définition orthographique de l'homonymie (Articles 52, 56a) qui est la source de nos difficultés. Elles persisteront aussi longtemps qu'il n'y aura pas une définition à la fois orthographique et étymologique. Il est évident que Ropalidia et Rhopalidia sont étymologiquement homonymes et qu'il n'y a pas besoin de pleins pouvoirs pour reconnaître cette homonymie. Que, par hasard, ces homonymes représentent deux choses distinctes est un autre problème, bien tranché par le Code.
Dr. Heppell: As I do not oppose the suppression of Rhopalidia Lepeletier, 1836, I have voted for this proposal, but I believe the applicant may have misinterpreted the facts. He provides no evidence to support the statement that Rhopalidia “was an independent foundation” from Ropalidia; it seems more likely that Lepeletier’s concept of the genus included Guérin-Méneville’s species, otherwise there would have been no reason for Guérin-Méneville to adopt Lepeletier’s spelling of the name. Guérin-Méneville’s statement that his own species was too different to require comparison does not necessarily indicate that he did not consider them congeneric. Rhopalidia could thus be considered an unjustified emendation of Ropalidia and a junior objective synonym of it, offering no threat to Stelopolybia or Angiopolybia. As the nominal genus Rhopalidia has, nevertheless, rightly or wrongly, been interpreted by some authors as established independently of Ropalidia, I see no reason for not endorsing the proposals.

Original References

The following is the original reference for the name placed on an Official Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:


Certificate

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (74)21 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1051.

R. V. MELVILLE
Secretary
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
London
23 September 1975

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