

- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *rugosa* de Blainville, 1825, as published in the binomen *Strophomena rugosa*, and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

## References

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**Case 2703****HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 (Osteichthyes, Cypriniformes):  
proposed precedence over BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to give precedence to the commonly used family-group name for the flat loaches HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 over the unused senior synonym BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839.

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1. In a study of Indian and Indochinese loaches of the genus *Balitora* Gray, 1830 Kottelat (1988) reported that although interrelationships among members of the family HOMALOPTERIDAE have been variously interpreted, its type genus *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 has always been considered closely related to *Balitora* Gray, 1830 and placed in the same family, subfamily and tribe. Thus his rediscovery of the hitherto overlooked family-group name BALITORINAE Swainson, 1839 (p. 190) means the family-group name HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 (p. xxviii) is a junior subjective synonym of BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839. In accordance with Article 23 of the Code, I am referring this case to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature together with a proposal to preserve nomenclatural stability.

2. The family-group name HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 has been widely accepted by zoologists. All recent publications use this name (e.g. Hora, 1920; Hora, 1931; Hora, 1932; Hora, 1941; Silas, 1953; Jayaram, 1981). The family-group name BALITORIDAE has not been used for any of the homalopterid fishes since Swainson established it (1839) until Kottelat (1988) nearly 150 years later.

3. Kottelat (1988, p. 489) himself admits that the replacement of HOMALOPTERIDAE by BALITORIDAE creates additional confusion in the suborder Cobitoidei. I cannot follow Kottelat in his opinion that an immediate introduction of the family-group name BALITORIDAE, which had been overlooked for about 150 years, would help to create a stable nomenclature (Kottelat, 1988, p. 489).

4. Kottelat (1988, p. 489) expects changes in systematics and nomenclature in the suborder Cobitoidei. Under these circumstances all possible attempts have to be made to stabilize nomenclature.

5. In 1986 Kottelat (BZN 43: 360–362) proposed the designation of *Cobitis taenia* Linnaeus, 1758 as type species of the genus *Cobitis* Linnaeus, 1758. He referred (p. 361) to the fact that otherwise the family HOMALOPTERIDAE would become a subfamily of COBITIDAE. In Opinion 1500 (June, 1988) the Commission used its plenary powers to designate *Cobitis taenia* as type species of *Cobitis* Linnaeus, 1758 and thus stabilized the family-group name HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859. However, the name remains threatened by the discovery of the unused senior synonym BALITORIDAE.

6. The type genus of HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 is *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 (p. 133), the type species of which is *H. ocellata* van der Hoeven, 1833



by subsequent monotypy. *Homaloptera* is available by description but the two species originally included in it (*H. fasciata* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 and *H. javanica* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823) are both nomina nuda. On p. 132 of van Hasselt's work, *Homaloptera* is spelt *Homalophra*. Kottelat (1987) acted as first reviser and selected the commonly used spelling *Homaloptera*. The specific name *ocellata* van der Hoeven, 1833 is a nomen nudum in the book *Handboek der Dierkunde ...* (1833a), the description given on p. 211 referring to the genus only. However, in the accompanying atlas (1833b) *Verzameling der Platen ...*, (to which no mention is made in the *Handboek*, although it is referred to in the translation from the 2nd Dutch edition, 1856–1858), p. 8 (Verklaring der platen) states that pl. 13 fig. 12 is '*Homaloptera ocellata* v. Hass; eene nieuwe, vroeger nog niet afgebeelde, soort uit Java. Fig. 12b. Kop van dezen visch, van boven gezien. (11. bl. 211)'. Plate 13, figure 12 depicts a whole fish, fig. 12b the head of a fish, so the name is available. The type genus of BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839 is *Balitora* Gray, 1830 (pl. 88). The type species of this genus is *Balitora brucei* Gray, 1830 (pl. 88) by subsequent designation by Jordan (1919, p. 178).

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to give precedence to the family-group name HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 over the family-group name BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839;
- (2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Balitora* Gray, 1830 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Jordan (1919) *Balitora brucei* Gray, 1830 (type genus of BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839);
  - (b) *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent monotypy *Homaloptera ocellata* van der Hoeven, 1833 (type genus of HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859);
- (3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *brucei* Gray, 1830, as published in the binomen *Balitora brucei* (specific name of the type species of *Balitora* Gray, 1830);
  - (b) *ocellata* van der Hoeven, 1833, as published in the binomen *Homaloptera ocellata* (specific name of the type species of *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823);
- (4) to place the following names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
  - (a) HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 (type genus *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823) with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839 (type genus *Balitora* Gray, 1830);
  - (b) BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839 (type genus *Balitora* Gray, 1830) with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 (type genus *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823).

## References

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<https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.2741>.

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