

REQUEST FOR A "DECLARATION" PRESCRIBING THE COMBINATION  
TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SPECIFIC NAME OF A NOMINAL  
SPECIES ESTABLISHED AS BELONGING TO ONE GENUS BUT FOR  
WHICH AT THE SAME TIME ANOTHER NOMINAL GENUS IS ESTABLISHED  
CONDITIONALLY

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(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 894)

The object of the present application is to ask the Commission to render a *Declaration* prescribing the combination to be attributed to the specific name of a nominal species established as belonging to one genus but for which at the same time another nominal genus is established conditionally.

2. The present problem was brought to notice by Mr. Denys W. Tucker (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) who in a letter dated 18th August 1954 raised it in connection with a specific name *gracilis* published by Lowe (R.T.) in 1843 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 11 : 81—95) in the following circumstances. On page 82 of this paper Lowe dealt with the "Genus *Seriola* Cuv. & Val.", this legend appearing as a heading for the portion which followed. Beneath this heading Lowe wrote the name "*Seriola gracilis*", a name then introduced as the name for a new species. This was followed by a description of the species so named. In this description Lowe referred to the relationship of his new species (*Seriola gracilis*) to the species *Seriola bipinnulata* Quoy & Gaimard, 1825 (*Voy. "Uranie" (Zool.)* : 363). Lowe then added the following note :—"Still it is not unlikely that a comparison of the two fishes may warrant, on some future occasion, their separation from *Seriola* into a genus which may be called *Cubiceps* . . ." The question which arises in this case is whether the specific name *gracilis* Lowe, 1843, should be treated as having been originally published in the combination *Seriola gracilis* or in the combination *Cubiceps gracilis*.

3. The question posed above is not dealt with in the *Règles* and it is the object of the present application to make good this deficiency. The Commission and the International Congress of Zoology have both frowned upon the publication of names conditionally. The Commission did not feel justified in recommending the Congress to insert in the *Règles* a provision invalidating names published in this way and accordingly in 1948 on the proposal of the Commission a provision incorporating the Ruling given previously by the Commission in its *Opinion* 49 (1912, *Smithson. Publ.* 2060 : 112—113) that such names must be accepted as being available as from their original date of



publication and authorship was adopted by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 144—145, Decision 17). At the same time however the Commission submitted a proposal to the Congress that there should be inserted in the *Règles a Recommandation* deprecating the publication of names conditionally. This also was approved by the Congress.

4. It appears to me that the logical course would be to treat a specific name such as *gracilis* Lowe, 1843 (paragraph 2 above) as having been published in combination with the generic name *Seriola* (i.e. in combination with the name of the previously established nominal genus in which it was placed by its author) rather than as having been published in combination with the generic name *Cubiceps* (the name of a nominal genus then conditionally established for the reception of that species, if later this generic separation was judged to be desirable on taxonomic grounds). The foregoing solution of this problem is supported by Mr. Tucker, the specialist by whom (as noted above) the present problem was brought to the notice of the Commission.

5. I accordingly recommend the Commission to render a *Declaration* on the following lines :—

**DRAFT DECLARATION** :—Where an author, in publishing a name for a new nominal species, cites that name in combination with a previously published generic name but at the same time establishes conditionally a new nominal genus for the taxon so named, the specific name in question is to be treated as having been first published in combination with the previously published generic name and not in combination with the generic name of the new nominal genus then conditionally establishes. *Example* : The specific name *gracilis* published by Lowe in 1843 for a new species of fish which was placed by him in the previously established genus *Seriola* but for which also he then established conditionally the new genus *Cubiceps* is to be treated as having been first published in the combination *Seriola gracilis* and not in the combination *Cubiceps gracilis*.



**PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" OF THE GENERIC NAMES "SERIOLA" CUVIER (G.), [1816], AND "CUBICEPS" LOWE (R.T.), 1843 (CLASS ACTINOPTERYGII)**

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The present application is in the nature of a complement to the immediately preceding application in which a recommendation is submitted that the Commission should render a *Declaration* prescribing the combination to be attributed to the specific name of a nominal species established as belonging to one nominal genus but for which at the same time another nominal genus was conditionally established.

2. The foregoing application was illustrated by the specific name *gracilis* published by Lowe in 1843 for a new species of fish which that author placed in the genus *Seriola* Cuvier (G.), [1816]\*. *Règn. Anim.* 2 : 315) but for which also he then established conditionally the new nominal genus *Cubiceps* Lowe, 1843 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 11 : 82). The name *gracilis* was published on the same page as the generic name *Cubiceps*.

3. Under the General Directive given to the Commission by the International Congress of Zoology that it shall deal comprehensively with every case submitted to it and shall place on the appropriate *Official List* every name accepted by it as a valid name makes it necessary in connection with the foregoing case to consider whether the foregoing names should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

4. The generic names *Seriola* Cuvier and *Cubiceps* Lowe are both available names in the sense that they are not junior homonyms or junior objective synonyms of previously published generic names. Mr. Denys Tucker (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) by whom the problem discussed in paragraph 1 above was brought to the attention of the Commission, reports that both the foregoing names are currently accepted as being the names of taxonomically valid genera. Accordingly under the Directive given to the Commission both these names now fall to be placed on the *Official List*. The type species of *Seriola* Cuvier is *Caranx dumerili* Risso (A.), 1810 (*Ichth. Nice* : 175, pl. 6, fig. 20), by original designation ; the type species of *Cubiceps* Lowe is *Seriola gracilis* Lowe, 1843, by monotypy. Mr. Tucker reports that both these names are the oldest available names for the species concerned. Both should therefore now be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

\* For the date attributed to the *Règne Animal* see 1922, *Cat. Library Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.)* 6 : Add. et. Corrig. : 26.

*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* Vol. 11. Part 6. May 1955.



Hemming, Francis. 1955. "Request for a Declaration prescribing the combination to be attributed to the specific name of a nominal species established as belonging to one genus but for which at the same time another nominal genus is established conditionally." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 11, 179–181. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.2840>.

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