

UROPLAT—AS THE STEM OF FAMILY-GROUP NAMES IN
AMPHIBIA AND INSECTA (COLEOPTERA): PROPOSALS TO
REMOVE THE HOMONYMY. Z.N.(S.)2373.

By Hobart M. Smith (*Department of Environmental, Population
and Organismic Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder,
Colorado, 80309 U.S.A.*), Urless N. Lanham (*University of
Colorado Museum*) and Arthur Loveridge (*deceased*).

A case of family-group name homonymy involving insects and reptiles has come to our attention. Since it pertains to large and/or well-known groups whose names are in current use, we request a decision on the proper names by the Commission, in conformance with the directive of Art. 55. We are much indebted to Dr Roger Conant and Dr Richard E. White for invaluable aid in documentation of the case.

2. The nominal genus *Uroplatus* Duméril, 1806, p. 80, containing six species of geckos in Madagascar, as now known, was emended erroneously to *Uroplates* Gray, 1825, p. 198, which served as the nominal type genus for the new generically monotypic family-group taxon UROPLATIDAE Boulenger, 1884, p. 119. That family-group name was widely accepted for about 50 years, but was synonymised with the GEKKONIDAE by Malcolm Smith, 1933, p. 17. The most recent revision of the higher categories of geckos (Kluge, 1967) did not recognise the genus as constituting any level of family-group separation, even tribal. Nevertheless the genus is highly distinctive and we regard it as valid at the subtribe level, hence Uroplatina (a level not treated by Kluge, *op. cit.*, or other monographers).

3. The nominal genus *Uroplata* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1835, p. 365, proposed for a group of 88 species of American (mostly South American) beetles as understood in 1970 (fide White, 1981, p. 714), served as the type genus for the family-group taxon UROPLATINI Leng, 1920, p. 303 (Coleoptera, CHRYSOMELIDAE, HISPINAE), proposed at the tribal level. Twenty-five New World genera were included in the tribe by Blackwelder, 1946, p. 729 and Arnett, 1960, p. 940. The genus *Uroplata* continues to be recognised as valid (e.g. Harley, 1969; White, 1981).

4. Thus two family-group names identical at common levels have been derived from similar although not identical generic names. A modification of the stem to remove family-group name homonymy without actually suppressing either name is in order. We suggest changing the lizard subtribal name to Uroplatiina, the stem of *Uroplatus* being designated as *Uroplati-*, to which appropriate family-group name endings should be added.

5. We accordingly here request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

(1) to use its plenary powers to rule that the stem of the generic

- name *Uroplatus* Duméril, 1806 for the purposes of Article 29 is UROPLATI-
- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Uroplatus* Duméril, 1806 (gender: masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Stellio fimbriatus* Schneider, 1792, p. 32;
 - (b) *Uroplata* Chevrolat, 1835 (gender: feminine), type species, by subsequent designation by White, 1981, p. 714, *Hispa mucronata* Olivier, 1808, p. 765;
 - (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *fimbriatus* Schneider, 1792, as published in the binomen *Stellio fimbriatus* (specific name of type species of *Uroplatus* Duméril, 1806);
 - (b) *mucronata* Olivier, 1808, as published in the binomen *Hispa mucronata* (specific name of type species of *Uroplata* Chevrolat, 1835);
 - (4) to place the following names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) UROPLATIIDAE Boulenger, 1884 (emended through the ruling under the plenary powers in (1) above from UROPLATIDAE) (type genus *Uroplatus* Duméril, 1806);
 - (b) UROPLATINI Leng, 1920 (type genus *Uroplata* Chevrolat, 1835).

REFERENCES

- ARNETT, Ross H. 1960-62. *The beetles of the United States (a manual for identification)*. Washington, D.C., Catholic Univ. Amer. xi, 1112 pp.
- BLACKWELDER, Richard E. 1946. Checklist of the coleopterous insects of Mexico. Central America, the West Indies and South America. Part 4. *Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, no. 185, pp. i-iii, pp. 551-763.
- BOULENGER, George A. 1884. Synopsis of the families of existing Lacertilia. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, (5) vol. 14, pp. 117-122.
- DEJEAN, Pierre F. M. A. 1835. *Catalogue des coléoptères de la collection de M. le compte Dejean ...* Ed. 2. Paris, Méguignon-Marvis.
- DUMERIL, A. M. C. 1806. *Zoologie analytique, ou méthode naturelle de classification des animaux*. Paris, Perronneau, xxxii, 344 pp.
- GRAY, J. E. 1825. A synopsis of the genera of reptiles and Amphibia, with a description of some new species. *Ann. Philos.* (n.s.) vol. 10, pp. 193-217.
- HARLEY, K. L. S. 1969. The suitability of *Octotoma scabripennis* Guérin and *Uroplata girardi* Pic for the control of *Lantana* in Australia. *Bull. entomol. Res.*, vol. 54, pp. 835-843.
- KLUGE, Arnold G. 1967. Higher taxonomic categories of gekkonid lizards and their evolution. *Bull. Am. Mus. nat. Hist.*, vol. 135 (1), pp. 1-60, figs. 1-8, pls. 1-5.

- LENG, Charles W. 1920. *Catalogue of the Coleoptera of America, north of Mexico*. Mt. Vernon, N.Y., John D. Sherman, Jr. x, 470 pp.
- OLIVIER, A. G. 1808. *Entomologie, ou histoire naturelle des insectes...* Vol. 6, Coléoptères. Paris, pp. 613-1104.
- SCHNEIDER, J. G. 1792. *Amphibiorum physiologiae specimen alterum*. Trajecti ad Viadrum. pp. 55.
- SMITH, Malcolm A. 1933. Remarks on some Old World geckoes. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, vol. 35(1), pp. 9-19, figs. 1-7.
- WHITE, Richard E. 1981. The genus *Uroplata*, type-species and authorship (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). *Proc. entomol. Soc. Washington*, vol. 83(4), pp. 713-715.



Smith, Hobart M., Lanham, U N, and Loveridge, Arthur. 1983. "Uroplat As The Stem Of Family Group Names In Amphibia And Insecta Coleoptera Proposals To Remove The Homonymy." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 40, 62–64.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44482>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/31230>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.