

**Case 3295*****Eterusia cingala* Moore, 1877 (Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Eterusia cingala* Moore, 1877 for a common zygaenid moth pest of tea in south Asia, the larvae of which are known as 'tea slugs'. The older name *Eterusia aedea septentrionicola* Felder & Felder, 1862 is a senior subjective synonym of *E. cingala*, but has not been catalogued or used since 1862. The suppression of *E. septentrionicola* is therefore proposed to conserve the name *E. cingala*.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; *Eterusia*; *Eterusia cingala*; tea slug; Asia.

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1. C. Felder & R. Felder (1862, p. 32) described *septentrionicola* as a variety of *Eterusia aedea* (Linnaeus, 1763) (published as *Heterusia aedea*) from Sri Lanka. Since 1862, the name *septentrionicola* has not been catalogued or used by any author.

2. Moore (1877, p. 343) described the species *Eterusia cingala* from Sri Lanka in a general descriptive study of Lepidoptera of Sri Lanka. Following Moore (1877), *cingala* was treated as a valid specific name by Moore (1882, p. 41), Cotes & Swinhoe (1887, p. 68), Kirby (1892, p. 50), Swinhoe (1892, p. 80), Hampson (1893, p. 262) and Green (1898, p. 279). Later, Jordan (1907, p. 34) treated *cingala* as a valid subspecies of *Eterusia aedea* in Sri Lanka, and this treatment has been accepted and used by a number of authors, e.g. Hering (1922, p. 64), Fletcher (1925, p. 59), Bryk (1936, p. 207), Gardner (1942, p. 160), Tremewan (1960, p. 109; 1973, p. 125), Fletcher & Nye (1982, p. 50), Owada (1989, p. 197), Endo & Kishida (1999, p. 99) and Yen (2004).

3. Yen (2004) examined the type series of *Eterusia aedea* var. *septentrionicola* Felder & Felder, 1862 in the Natural History Museum, London, and discovered it to be consubspecific with specimens of *Eterusia aedea cingala* Moore, 1877. The name *septentrionicola* is therefore a senior subjective synonym of *cingala*.

4. *Eterusia aedea cingala* has been reported as a pest of tea (*Camellia* spp.) in several works (e.g. Green, 1898; Barlow, 1900; Tremewan, 1960; Owada, 1989; Tarmann, 1992; Robinson et al., 2001). To use the name *septentrionicola* in place of its junior synonym *cingala* would involve a change in the name of an economically important pest. The resurrection of the long-forgotten name *septentrionicola* would unnecessarily create confusion and loss of continuity in a growing agricultural and systematic literature and would promote nomenclatural instability. Since the name *septentrionicola* has not been used since 1899, it qualifies as a nomen oblitum under



Article 23.9.1.1. However, the name *cingala* has not had sufficient usage in the last 50 years to allow its automatic conservation as a nomen protectum under Article 23.9.1.2. It is for this reason that I propose that the Commission should conserve the name *Eterusia cingala* by suppression of the name *Heterusia aedea septentrionicola*.

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

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *septentrionicola* Felder & Felder, 1862, as published in the trinomen *Eterusia aedea septentrionicola*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *cingala* Moore, 1877, as published in the binomen *Eterusia cingala*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *septentrionicola* Felder & Felder, 1862, as published in the trinomen *Eterusia aedea septentrionicola* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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