OPINION 968

ACARUS TELARIUS LINNAEUS, 1758 (ARACHNIDA):
SUPPRESSED UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name telarius Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen Acarus telarius, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:
   (a) tiliarium J. Hermann, 1804, as published in the binomen Trombidium tiliarium, as defined by the neotype designated by Boudreaux & Dosse, 1963 (Name No. 2456);
   (b) urticae Koch, 1836, as published in the binomen Tetranychus urticae, as defined by the neotype designated by Boudreaux & Dosse, 1963 (Name No. 2457).

(3) The specific name telarius Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen Acarus telarius (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 966.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1564)

The present application was first submitted to the office of the Commission by Prof. H. B. Boudreaux and Prof. Gudo Dosse in August 1962. A final application, received in December 1962 was sent to the printer on 31 January 1963 and was published on 21 October 1963 in Bull. zool. Nomencl. 20 : 363–366. 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. 21 : 184).


On 25 January 1967 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (67)7 on the present case. The Commission was invited to choose between Alternative A, the proposals of Boudreaux and Dosse (the use of the plenary powers to adopt their revised proposals set out in Bull. zool. Nomencl. 22 : 298–299) and Alternative B, the proposals of Eyndhoven (as set out in Bull. zool. Nomencl. 21 : 87–88). At the close of the prescribed voting period on 25 April 1967 the state of the voting was as follows:

For Alternative A—thirteen (13), received in the following order: China, Mayr*, Lemche, Munroe, Boschma, Vokes, Uchida, Sabrosky, Brinck, Mertens, Kraus, Stoll, Forest.

For Alternative B—seven (7): Holthuis†, Tortorone, Jaczewski, Bonnet, Binder, Evans, Ride.

Voting Papers not returned—two (2): Hubbs, Simpson.

Commissioners Alvarado and do Amaral returned late votes in favour of Alternative B. Commissioner Obruchev did not vote, making the following comment, “I can’t choose between these alternatives, since they both lead to confusion. The best decision would be to suppress *telarius* and to place on the List *tiliarium, urticae* and *cinnabarinus*.”

The following comments were made by Commissioners in returning their votes:

*Dr. L. B. Holthuis (30.i.67):* “In voting for van Eyndhoven’s proposal, I make exception for his par. 14. If the names listed there under (a) to (f) are available names and not junior homonyms or junior objective synonyms, they cannot be placed on the Index without being suppressed under the plenary powers. The names under (c), (d) and (f) are junior subjective synonyms of *A. telarius* L. and therefore need not be suppressed. The other names are doubtful senior synonyms it seems of *T. urticae* Koch. Their suppression should be asked if they are really a potential danger. If, however, as Boudreaux & Dosse *(Bull. 21: 89)* intimate, the names under (a), (d) and (e) are unavailable, they could be placed on the Index without the use of the plenary powers.”

*Prof. E. Mayr (10.ii.67):* “Unfortunately the alternative proposals do not bring out clearly how they would affect stability. Nor is a third alternative considered, namely the suppression of the name *telarius* Linnaeus, now so confusingly used either for the Linden Mite or the Two-Spotted Mite or the Carmine Mite. This would leave three uncontroversial names, two of which correspond to the vernacular names: *tiliarium, urticae, cinnabarinus*. Acceptance of these three names would eliminate the confusion inevitable if the name *telarius* is adopted for any of the three species.

“I feel the Commission should propose this third alternative to Boudreaux and Eyndhoven, for comment.”

Because Alternative A on Voting Paper (67)7 necessitated the use of the plenary powers a two-thirds majority was necessary for its adoption. The Commission’s by-laws rule that when a majority, but not a two-thirds majority, is obtained, as in the present case, a second vote must be taken under the Three-Month Rule. The suggestion made by both Prof. Mayr and Prof. Obruchev that *Acarus telarius* be suppressed altogether was put before the applicants, however, and was agreed to by all three. Consequently, a new application proposing the suppression under the plenary powers of *Acarus telarius* Linnaeus, 1758, and approved by a number of interested acarologists was published on 8 August 1969 in *Bull. Zool. Nomencl.* 26: 71, and use of the plenary powers was advertised. No further comment was received.

* Commissioner Mayr requested that his vote be counted with the majority.
† A Conditional vote—see note below.
DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 29 October 1970 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (70)39 either for or against the proposal set out in Bull. zool. Nomencl. 26:71. Because of a strike of British postal workers the voting period was extended to 31 March 1971, and on that date the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—eighteen (18), received in the following order: Melville, Mayr, Lemche, Holthuis, Simpson, Brinck, Obruchev, Jaczewski, Eisenmann, Bonnet, Vokes, Tortonese, Starobogatov, Ride, Alvarado, Binder, Sabrosky, Forest.

Negative votes—none (0).

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

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on the Official List and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:
telarius, Acarus, Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat. (ed. 10) 1: 616
tiliarium, Trombidium, J. Hermann, 1804, Mem. Apt.: 42–43

The following are the original references for the designation of neotypes for two species concerned in the present Ruling:

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (70)39 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, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 968.

R. V. MELVILLE
Secretary
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
London
14 June 1971

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