Case 2791

*Chelifer museorum* Leach, 1817 (currently *Cheiridium museorum*; Arachnida, Pseudoscorpionida): proposed conservation of the specific name

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is the conservation of the specific name of *Chelifer museorum* Leach, 1817 which is consistently used for a common, often synanthropic, pseudoscorpion recorded from Europe, Africa, India and North America. *C. museorum* is the type species of *Cheiridium* Menge, 1855 but the name is threatened by the unused senior synonym *Chelifer nepoides* Hermann, 1804.

1. *Chelifer nepoides* Hermann (1804, p. 116) was described from specimens which are no longer available, collected near Strasbourg, France.

2. *Chelifer museorum* Leach (1817, p. 50, fig. 4) was described from specimens collected in Great Britain. One syntype specimen is lodged in the collection of the Natural History Museum, London. *Chelifer museorum* was designated the type species of *Cheiridium* Menge (1855, p. 36) by the subsequent designation of Simon (1879, p. 43).

3. *Chelifer nepoides* Hermann, 1804 was first regarded as a synonym of *Chelifer museorum* Leach, 1817 by Tömösváry (1882, p. 210), who adopted *museorum* as the valid name. This has been followed by all subsequent authors and *nepoides* Hermann, 1804 has not been mentioned in the primary literature since 1882.

4. *Cheiridium museorum* (Leach, 1817) has been cited in the literature on numerous occasions (see, for example, Weygoldt, 1969, pp. 23, 26, 41, 42, 74, 108, 110; Jones, 1980, map 13 and Legg & Jones, 1988, pp. 91–92). A representative list of seven additional important works, dating from 1924 to 1974, in which the name *museorum* Leach, 1817 has been used is held by the Commission Secretariat.

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

   (1) to suppress the specific name *nepoides* Hermann, 1804, as published in the binomen *Chelifer nepoides*, 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 Generic Names in Zoology the name *Cheiridium* Menge, 1855 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Simon (1879) *Chelifer museorum* Leach, 1817;

   (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *museorum* Leach, 1817, as published in the binomen *Chelifer museorum* (specific name of the type species of *Cheiridium* Menge, 1855);
(4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology
the name nepoides Hermann, 1804, as published in the binomen Chelifer nepoides
and as suppressed in (1) above.

References


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