

Case 2919

***Lithobius piceus* L. Koch, 1862 (Chilopoda): proposed conservation of the specific name**

E.H. Eason

Bourton Far Hill, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9TN, U.K.

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the centipede *Lithobius piceus* L. Koch, 1862, a widespread species in Europe. It is threatened by the unused senior subjective synonym *L. quadridentatus* Menge, 1851.

1. The name *Lithobius quadridentatus* was published by Menge (1851, p. 12) accompanied by a short description of a specimen from northern Poland. *Lithobius piceus* was published by L. Koch (1862, p. 49) accompanied by a fairly detailed description of a specimen from Bavaria.

2. Fanzago (1876, p. 77) identified a specimen from northern Italy as *L. quadridentatus*; in my opinion this was correct. However, Fedrizzi (1877, p. 215) questioned Fanzago's determination of this specimen and concluded that a new nominal species, *Lithobium violaceus*, should be based on it. The name *L. violaceus* has not been used since.

3. The name *L. quadridentatus* has not been used since 1876. Eason & Minelli (1976, p. 194) stated that *L. violaceus* was a junior subjective synonym of *L. piceus* L. Koch, 1862 and noted that *L. violaceus* was the same as *L. quadridentatus* sensu Fanzago (1876) 'nec Menge'. However, in this last statement Prof Minelli and I were simply following Fedrizzi (1877), and consideration of Menge's (1851) description of *L. quadridentatus* shows this name to be a senior subjective synonym of *L. piceus*.

4. The name *Lithobius piceus* L. Koch, 1862 has been used for a widespread European species in over one hundred papers. I give here ten examples (Latzel, 1880; Brolemann, 1930; Verhoeff, 1937; Loksa, 1955; Demange, 1958; Dobroruka, 1958; Matic, 1966; Jeekel, 1971; Eason, 1972; Serra, 1983), and others are given in their bibliographies. The subjective synonym *L. quadridentatus* Menge, 1851 has not been used as valid since Fanzago (1876; see para. 2 above) and to allow it to displace *L. piceus* would contravene the criteria mentioned in Article 79c of the Code.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *quadridentatus* Menge, 1851, as published in the binomen *Lithobius quadridentatus*, 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 *piceus* L. Koch, 1862, as published in the binomen *Lithobius piceus*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *quadridentatus* Menge, 1851 as published in the binomen *Lithobius quadridentatus* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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