OPINION 1779

Potamolithus Pilsbry & Rush, 1896 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): placed on the Official List with Paludina lapidum d'Orbigny, 1835 as the type species

Ruling


(2) The name lapidum d'Orbigny, 1835, as published in the binomen Paludina lapidum (specific name of the type species of Potamolithus Pilsbry & Rush, 1896) and as defined by the lectotype (specimen no. 1854.12.4.339 in the d'Orbigny collection in the Natural History Museum, London) designated by Pons da Silva & Davis (1983), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2801

An application for the confirmation of Potamolithus rushii Pilsbry, 1896 as the accepted type species of Potamolithus Pilsbry, 1896 (December) was received from Drs Maria F. Lopez Armengol and Miguel O. Manceñido (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina) on 23 November 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 49: 109–111 (June 1992). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An opposing comment from Dr Alan R. Kabat (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.) was published in BZN 50: 52 (March 1993), together with a reply by the authors of the application. Dr Kabat pointed out that there was a valid type species designation for Potamolithus Pilsbry & Rush, 1896 (November) by Clench (1948), who had designated Paludina lapidum d'Orbigny, 1835. Dr Kabat subsequently noted (in litt., April and November 1993) that he (Kabat & Hershler, 1993, p. 44) had cited P. lapidum as the type species of Potamolithus, following Clench's designation, as had (acting on his advice) Hershler & Thompson (1992, p. 129).

A comment from Dr Maria Christina Pons da Silva (Museu de Ciências Naturais, Porto Alegre, Brazil) in support of the type species designation for Potamolithus of P. rushii was published in BZN 50: 228 (September 1993).


A revised version of the original proposals, seeking to set aside Clench's (1948) designation of Paludina lapidum d'Orbigny, 1835 as the type species of Potamolithus Pilsbry & Rush, 1896 and to designate P. rushii Pilsbry, 1896 as the type, was offered for voting.
Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1994 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the revised proposals. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1994 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 12: Bock, Bouchet, Corliss, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Nielsen, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin, Willink


No votes were received from Cogger and Uéno.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Voting in favour of the designation of Potamolithus ruslui Pilsbry, 1896 as the type species, Bouchet commented: ‘I consider that I am following Pilsbry’s intention when he introduced the name Potamolithus. It is clear from Pilsbry’s December 1896 paper that Pilsbry regarded the November paper as a preview of his ideas. The November footnote confirms this’ (para. 1 of the application). Voting against, Dupuis commented that Kabat had spoken convincingly for the acceptance of P. lapidum d’Orbigny, 1835 as the type species of Potamolithus; the species was included in the genus by Pilsbry & Rush (1896) and had been designated as the type in 1948. The applicants had not opposed this designation. Hahn commented: ‘Specialists do not agree in this case; therefore it may be better to follow the Code and to accept P. lapidum as the type species of Potamolithus’. Holthuis commented: “Since the applicants had noted (BZN 50: 53) that ‘the two alternatives do not entail substantially different immediate consequences’, it would be unforgivable to use the plenary powers in this case”. Kabata commented: ‘Clench’s (1948) type species designation was valid and setting it aside would be justified only if its acceptance seriously threatened nomenclatural stability. In spite of Dr Pons da Silva’s comment, I do not see it as anything but a small perturbation (if any)’. Nye commented: ‘As the publication of this case has brought to light a valid type species designation that does not upset stability there is no need for the Commission to invoke the use of the plenary powers and therefore it should not do so’. Štys commented: ‘I cannot see why a perfectly clear nomenclatural situation should be interfered with, and why the straightforward application of the Code should not be observed’.

Since the majority required to set aside Clench’s (1948) type species designation was not reached, this remains the valid designation and Paludina lapidum is the type species of Potamolithus Pilsbry & Rush, 1896.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:


The following is the reference for the designation of Paludina lapidum d’Orbigny, 1835 as the type species of the nominal genus Potamolithus Pilsbry & Rush, 1896:


The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotype of Paludina lapidum d’Orbigny, 1835:


View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44552
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/7215

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.
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.