

OPINION 1781

***Termes lacteus* Froggatt, 1898 (currently *Coptotermes lacteus*; Insecta, Isoptera): specific name conserved**

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *lactis* Froggatt, 1897, as published in the binomen *Termes lactis*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *lacteus* Froggatt, 1898, as published in the binomen *Termes lacteus*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *lactis* Froggatt, 1897, as published in the binomen *Termes lactis* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2864

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Termes lacteus* Froggatt, 1898 was received from the late Dr J.A.L. Watson and from Dr H.M. Abbey (both of CSIRO, Canberra, Australia) on 21 October 1992. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 50: 112–114 (June 1993). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1994 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 50: 113. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1994 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 22: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin, Willink

Negative votes — 4: Kabata, Lehtinen, Štys and Thompson.

No votes were received from Cogger and Uéno.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Voting for, Dupuis commented that the *Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales* is a well known journal and it would have been preferable to consider *lacteus* as a valid correction from Froggatt (1897) (para. 1 of the application). Voting against, Kabata commented: 'Froggatt's original name *lactis* is correctly formed under Article 11h(i)(3) of the Code and it cannot be considered a lapsus. In my view its retention or restoration is not going to cause a major disturbance in the literature'. Štys commented that the provisions of the Code should be followed in this case. Thompson commented: 'I consider that this application is unnecessary as *Termes lactis* Froggatt, 1897 is not an available name. Froggatt himself (1898) declared this when he stated that his 1897 work was a 'popular paper' (para. 2 of the application), thereby rendering it a work not issued for permanent scientific record (Article 8a(1))'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

lacteus, Termes, Froggatt, 1898, *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*, **22**: 721.

lactis, Termes, Froggatt, 1897, *Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales*, **8**: plate facing p. 297.



International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1994. "Opinion 1781."
The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature 51, 275–276.

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