OPINION 1656

*Longitarsus symphyti* Heikertinger, 1912 (Insecta, Coleoptera): specific name conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the name *luctator* Weise, 1893, as published in the combination *Longitarsus aeruginosus var. luctator*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *symphyti* Heikertinger, 1912, as published in the binomen *Longitarsus symphyti*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *luctator* Weise, 1893, as published in the combination *Longitarsus aeruginosus var. luctator* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2687

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Longitarsus symphyti* Heikertinger, 1912 was received from Dr L. Borowiec (Agricultural University, Wroclaw, Poland) on 3 October 1988. After correspondence the case was published in *BZN* 47: 117 (June 1990). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments were received. The voting paper noted that the Commission Secretariat held a list of representative works dating from 1932 to 1978 which used the name *L. symphyti*.

Decision of the Commission

On 6 March 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in *BZN* 47: 117. At the close of the voting period on 6 June 1991 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 25: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 2: Macpherson and Thompson.

No vote was received from Trjapitzin.

Heppell commented: ‘I vote for the application, but I am concerned that it was necessary to bring this case to the Commission for a vote. I have not seen the original work by Weise in which the ‘var. luctator’ is described, and the applicant does not indicate the nature of its original description. The name has never been adopted for a species or subspecies, so its status as an available name depends on whether or not infrasubspecific rank can be inferred from Weise’s text. What concerns me is that, as Article 45g of the Code is presently worded, varietal names published before 1961 are treated as subspecific unless they were clearly infrasubspecific. I believe stability would be better served by shifting the burden of proof to those authors who wish to use currently unused varietal names at subspecific or specific level. The nominal ‘variety’ could then be interpreted as of subspecific rank only if the name was published before 1961 and treated prior to 1985 as an available name, unless it clearly applied to a distinct population and not merely to abnormal individuals. In that way the thousands
of such names in the literature would pose no threat to stability and the Commission need be involved only if there were an objection to such a treatment. I would happily support the exclusion of all varietal names not adopted before 1985. This sort of case must be dealt with automatically by the Code, so if Article 45g(ii) is unsatisfactory it requires to be revised. If we have to suppress senior varietal names one by one our work will never be through’.

Thompson commented: ‘This application does not conform to the requirements of Article 79c of the Code as there is insufficient documentation of usage’.

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:

*Lucitator, Longitarsus aeruginosus*, Weise, 1893, *Naturgeschichte der Insekten Deutschlands*, vol. 6, part 1, p. 1010.


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