

**Case 2773*****Schizopus* Le Conte, 1858 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is the conservation of the name *Schizopus* Le Conte, 1858 for a buprestid beetle genus. It is threatened by the homonym *Schizopus* Claparède & Lachmann, 1858, an unused name for a genus of hypotrichous ciliate protozoan.

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1. The generic name *Schizopus* was proposed by Claparède & Lachmann (1858, p. 182) for a single new species, *S. norvegicus*, of hypotrichous ciliate protozoan. *Schizopus* Le Conte (1858, p. 70) was proposed in the same year for the new buprestid beetle species *S. laetus*. I have been unable to ascertain the exact dates of publication for either of the names *Schizopus*, therefore under Article 21c of the Code the date of publication of both is taken as December 31, 1858. I therefore propose the suppression of the unused homonym *Schizopus* Claparède & Lachmann, 1858.

2. All major 19th century protozoologists (e.g. Stein, 1859; Kent, 1880–82; Bütschli, 1887–89) placed *Schizopus* Claparède & Lachmann into synonymy under one or another earlier name. In his taxonomic/nomenclatural book on ciliates, Corliss (1979) declared *Schizopus* Claparède & Lachmann, and many other generic names of ciliates, to be nomina oblita (although this term had no status under the then current Code).

3. The generic name *Schizopus* Le Conte has been used continually as a valid name since its publication. Le Conte (1859, p. 122) proposed a new family SCHIZOPODIDAE for *S. laetus* Le Conte; however, he (1866, p. 386) reconsidered and placed the species, along with *Dystaxia murrayi* Le Conte, in the tribe SCHIZOPINI (sic) of the family BUPRESTIDAE. This was followed in the landmark work on the classification of the Coleoptera of North America by Le Conte & Horn (1883), and by Kerremans and other specialists of the BUPRESTIDAE, until Fowler (1912, p. 150) treated the tribe as a subfamily. Most recent authors (e.g. Arnett, 1968; Nelson, 1982; Bellamy, 1985 and Cobos, 1986) have considered the subfamily status as valid. The generic name *Schizopus* has not only played a prominent role in the taxonomic literature, but also in discussions of the phylogenetic relationships of the BUPRESTIDAE. Either the genus *Schizopus* or the subfamily SCHIZOPODINAE is usually portrayed as a critical link to other taxa; see Le Conte (1859), Good (1925), Forbes (1926), Rees (1941), Crowson (1960, 1975, 1981), Lawrence & Newton (1982), Lawrence (1982, 1987), Caveney (1986) and Gardner (1989).

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Schizopus* Claparède & Lachmann, 1858, and all uses of the name *Schizopus* prior to *Schizopus* Le



- Conte, 1858, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Schizopus* Le Conte, 1858 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Schizopus laetus* Le Conte, 1858;
  - (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *laetus* Le Conte, 1858, as published in the binomen *Schizopus laetus* (specific name of the type species of *Schizopus* Le Conte, 1858);
  - (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Schizopus* Claparède & Lachmann, 1858, as suppressed in (1) above.

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