COMMENT ON PROPOSALS FOR THE AMENDMENT OF OPINION 610
(FAMILY-GROUP NAMES BASED ON GENERIC NAMES HAVING THE STEM DREPAN-). Z.N.(S.) 1958

By R. V. Melville (Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

Readers of the Bulletin ought to be made aware that Dr. Gruchy’s recently published paper (30 : 35-6) on the homonymy between the family-group names Drepanidae in Lepidoptera and in Pisces is not in fact the first application addressed to the Commission on this subject. In January 1971 Dr. K. V. Lakshminarayana and Dr. K. V. Rama Rao, of the Zoological Survey of India, sent in an application which was, as it happened, in need of correction in certain respects. Not only did this application not take account of the ruling given in Opinion 610 (Bull. zool. Nomencl. 18 : 267-269) wherein Drepanidae had been placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology as the name of the Lepidopteran family involved, but it provided no references to the authors and dates of the family-group names involved.

The receipt in May 1971 of Dr. Kashin’s proposals for technical amendments to the authors and dates of the family-group names in question (Bull. 28 : 119-120) caused the application by Dr. Lakshminarayana and Dr. Rama Rao to be overlooked. This was the more unfortunate because Opinion 610 and Dr. Kashin’s application dealt with homonymy between Lepidoptera and Aves only; the new application was the first inkling that the Commission had that a third group—Pisces—was also involved. Apologies are therefore offered to Dr. Lakshminarayana and Dr. Rama Rao. Fortunately Dr. Gruchy’s paper covers all the points in which their earlier application needed attention.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO CONSERVE THE SPECIFIC NAME PALLIDA ALDER & HANCOCK, 1854, AS PUBLISHED IN THE BINOMEN EMBLETONIA PALLIDA Z.N.(S) 2010

(see volume 30, page 90)

By I. S. Roginskaya (Institute of Oceanology, Academy of Sciences of U.S.S.R., I Letnijaja, J-387, Moscow)

The purpose of the present comment is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to reject the proposal to use its plenary powers to conserve the specific name pallida Alder & Hancock, 1854, as cited in the binomen Embletonia pallida and to bring forward evidence not referred to in Dr. Lemche’s application on this subject.

The specific name adspersa was introduced for a species of nudibranch from Odessa on the Black Sea by Nordmann (1845, Mém. Acad. Sci. St. Petersb. 4 (6) : 498, pl. 1, figs. 4–5). Four years later Schultz (1849, Arch. Naturgesch. 15 : 268–279) under the name Tergipes lacinulatus described the development of the same species from the Baltic Sea. Subsequently Alder & Hancock obtained this species from the British Coast and described it as a new species Embletonia pallida (1854, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. ser. 2, 14 : 102–105). This name was later used by most authors in Western Europe. Subsequently Costa in 1866 independently described the same species from the Mediterranean under the name Tenellia mediterranea (1866, Annuar. Mus. zool. Univ. Napoli 3 : 76, pl. 3, fig. 7).

For a long time this species was considered by most authors to belong to the genus Embletonia Alder & Hancock, 1851. It was Pruvot-Fol who first revealed the heterogeneous structure of the genus Embletonia Alder & Hancock, 1851 and placed E. pallida in Tenellia Costa, 1866 (type-species Tenellia mediterranea by original designation).

The taxonomic review by me in 1970 (Roginskaya, Malacological Review 3 : 167–174) revealed the priority of Nordmann’s name adspersa and at the same time showed the striking confusion in the use of generic and specific names applied to this

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