PROPOSED CORRECTION OF THE ENTRY IN THE “OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY” RELATING TO THE NAME THERERecordED AS “SEGESTRIA” WALCKENAER, 1805 (CLASS ARACHNIDA, ORDER ARANEIDA) (PROPOSED CORRECTION OF AN ERROR IN “OPINION” 104)

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

(Commission’s reference Z.N.(S.)568)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to correct an error in the entry on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology relating to the name Segestria there attributed to Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida, Order Araneida), which was detected in the process of preparing the Official List for publication in book-form.

2. The above generic name was placed on the Official List in Opinion 104 (1928, Smithson, misc. Coll. 73 (No 5) : 25, 27). Its type species was there stated to be “florentina” by subsequent designation.

3. In the process of routine checking, I noted that Neave (1940, Nomencl. zool. 4 : 164) recorded two nominal genera as having been established with the name Segestria. These were:

   (2) Segestria Walckenaer, 1805, Tab. Aran. : 148.

4. It was immediately apparent from the above discovery that, unless the name Segestria Latreille, 1804, had been published without an “indication” and was therefore a nomen nudum, the name Segestria Walckenaer, 1805, which had been placed on the Official List under Opinion 104, was an invalid junior homonym. At this point, I applied for assistance to Mr. R. J. Whittick, at that time in charge of the Arachnida collection in the British Museum (Natural History), to whom I am indebted for the information on which the proposals now submitted are based.

5. The nominal genus Segestria Latreille, 1804, was established with the following diagnosis: “Yeux ecartes sur une ligne transversale, remontant deux bouts. (Segestrie, Segestria). Les tubiformes de Walckenaer.” This is therefore a nominal genus established without any nominal species clearly referred thereto. As such, its type species could, until 1948, have been determined only under the provisions of the Commission’s Opinion 46. It will be recalled, however, that, on the recommendation of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology incorporated into the Règles revised and simplified provisions for determining the type species of nominal genera established in the foregoing manner, Opinion 46 (which had always been most unsatisfactory) being at the same time cancelled (1950, Bull. zool. Nomencl. 4 : 159-160, 166, 346). Under the revised provisions referred to above, the first nominal species to be referred
to the genus Segestria by a subsequent author becomes the type species of that
genus, if only one such species is so referred, while if two or more nominal
species are thus referred to the nominal genus Segestria, those species alone are
to be treated as having been originally included species and therefore as the
only species eligible for selection as the type species of the genus by a subsequent
author.

6. Walckenaer in 1805 was the first author after Latreille, 1804, to deal
with the genus Segestria, for which he gave a brief description under the heading
"Les Tubicoles (Tubulariae) " and cited two species as follows:—

(1) Seg. perfida (Seg. perfida). Pl. 5, fig. 51 et 52. Walck., Faun. Paris,
t. 2, p. 223, no. 73.—Rossi, Fauna Etrusca, pl. 19, fig. 3, ar. florentina.

(2) Seg. senoculée (Seg. senoculata). Fab., Linn., Walck., DeGeer,
t. 7, p. 258, no. 18, pl. 15, fig. 5, 6, 7, 8. Lister, de Araneis, p. 74,
t. 24 fig. 24.

7. Under a decision taken by the Thirteenth International Congress of
Zoology in 1948 a nominal species cited in a specific synonymy at the time
when a new nominal genus is established (through the publication of a new
generic name) is to be treated as having been an originally included species
and is therefore eligible for selection as the type species of the genus concerned.
Accordingly the nominal species referred to by Walckenaer as " ar. florentina ",
i.e. Aranea florentina Rossi, 1790 (Fauna etrusc. 2 : 133) is eligible for selection
as the type species of Segestria Latreille, 1804, through having been cited (in a
specific synonymy) by Walckenaer (1805), the first author subsequent to
Latreille (1804) to refer to the generic name Segestria. It should be noted also
that in this particular case the two nominal species concerned (Aranea florentina
Rossi, 1790, and Aranea perfida Walckenaer, 1802 (Faune paris, 2 : 223) were
not only subjectively identified with one another by Walckenaer in 1805 (see
paragraph 6 above) but are, in fact, objectively identical with one another, for,
when in 1802 Walckenaer first published the name Aranea perfida, he expressly
cited the name Aranea florentina Rossi as a synonym. The name so published
by Walckenaer was thus no more than a nom. nov. for that previously published
by Rossi, of which it is therefore an objective junior (and therefore invalid)
synonym.

8. The first author to select a type species for the genus Segestria was
selected " Aranea florentina Ross." That selection is perfectly valid, for the
reasons explained in paragraph 7 above.

9. In the light of the foregoing review of the present case, we see that the
name Segestria Walckenaer, 1805, placed on the Official List under Opinion 104,
is an invalid homonym of the older name consisting of the same word (Segestria)
i.e. Segestria Latreille, 1804, which applies to a nominal genus having as its type
species the same species (Aranea florentina Rossi, 1790) as that cited by the
International Commission as the type species of the later nominal genus
Segestria Walckenaer, 1805. Accordingly, the error committed in Opinion 104
can readily be remedied by substituting on the Official List the valid name
Segestria Latreille, 1804, for the invalid name Segestria Walckenaer, 1805.
This, therefore, is what is now proposed should be done. It is further proposed that the present opportunity should be taken to make such entries on the Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology and on the two Official Indexes of rejected and invalid names as are required in order to comply with the decisions taken by the International Congress of Zoology, when establishing that Official List and those Official Indexes.

10. The specific action which it is now recommended that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should take to remedy the error disclosed in Opinion 104 is that it should:

(1) delete from the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the entry relating to the name Segestria Walckenaer, 1805 erroneously made under Opinion 104 (which should be deemed to have been corrected accordingly) and in its place to insert the following corrected entry:

Segestria Latreille, 1804 (type species, by subsequent selection by Latreille (1810); Aranea florentina Rossi, 1790);

(2) place the generic name Segestria Walckenaer, 1805 (a junior homonym of Segestria Latreille, 1804) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology;

(3) place the trivial name florentina Rossi, 1790 (as published in the binominal combination Aranea florentina) (trivial name of type species of Segestria Latreille, 1804) on the Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology;

(4) place the trivial name perfida Walckenaer, 1802 (as published in the binominal combination Aranea perfida) (trivial name of an objective junior synonym of Aranea florentina Rossi, 1790) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology.

View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44304
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/76200

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.

This file was generated 16 April 2022 at 01:23 UTC