

DIRECTION 110

IXODES LATREILLE, 1795 (ARACHNIDA: ACARINA):
ENTRY IN OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES
CONFIRMED

RULING.— (1) The generic name *Ixodes* Latreille, 1795 (gender: masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Acarus reduvius* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby confirmed in the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 208.

(2) The specific name *ricinus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Acarus ricinus* (the valid name under Article 24a, for the type species of *Ixodes* Latreille, 1795) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2787.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)1130

The generic name *Ixodes* Latreille, 1795 (*Mag. encyclop.* vol. 4, p. 18) was placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology in Opinion 73 (*Smiths. misc. Colls.*, vol. 73, no. 1 (Publ. 2657), pp. 23–31, 1922) in the following entry: '*Ixodes* Latreille, 1796a, 179, type *Acarus ricinus* Linnaeus, 1758.' Unfortunately, that entry was incorrect in two respects. First, the generic name *Ixodes* was first published by Latreille in 1795, and secondly, the type species is not *Acarus ricinus*. The entry was therefore withheld for further study when the first instalment of the Official Lists was published in book form in 1958.

It is true that in both 1796 (*Précis caract. Ins.*, p. 179) and in [1802] (*Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.*, vol. 3, p. 66) Latreille again published *Ixodes* and that on both occasions the only species referred to the genus was *Acarus ricinus* Linnaeus, 1758; but nothing can override the fact that the genus was established in 1795 with *Acarus reduvius* Linnaeus, 1758 as the sole included species, hence the type species by monotypy.

In 1901 Neumann (*Mém. Soc. zool. France*, vol. 4, p. 282) clearly synonymized *Acarus reduvius* and *Acarus ricinus*, and chose the latter as the valid name for the species. He is the First Reviser under Article 24a.

In 1957, the late Mr. Hemming, as Secretary to the Commission, sought the advice of Dr. Turk on the best solution to the *Ixodes* problem. In an unpublished note later circulated to the Commission, Dr. Turk purported to show that Neumann had not acted as first reviser in terms of Copenhagen Decision No. 123, although I do not see how that position can be upheld. He showed that *A. reduvius* was a composite species, because the references

cited in synonymy refer to an insect while the description clearly denotes a female of *A. ricinus* before it has had its first meal of blood. Dr. Turk therefore (a) designated the specimen on which Linnaeus based his description as the lectotype of *A. reduvius*, and (b), assuming that no author had preceded him, purported to act as First Reviser in designating *A. reduvius* as the valid name among the two synonyms, *A. reduvius* and *A. ricinus*. It seems to me, however, that the grounds upon which Mr. Hemming advised Dr. Turk to reject Neumann's first-reviser action — namely, that *A. reduvius* was a composite species — are without foundation. However, as that note was never published, neither his lectotype selection nor his purported action on the specific name has any standing.

On 26 September 1957 Mr. Hemming invited the members of the Commission to vote under the One-Month Rule on V.P.(O.M.)(57)18 for or against the proposals put forward over Dr. Turk's name. At the close of the voting period on 26 October 1957, there were 18 affirmative and two negative votes. In the course of the voting, Mr. Hemming received the following letter from Dr. Otto Kraus, which caused him to withdraw the voting paper. Dr. Kraus said:

'I can never agree with the proposals made by Dr. Turk. To my mind Neumann, 1901, is to be treated as First Reviser. In 1901 he selected one of the two names (*ricinus*, *reduvius*), i.e. *ricinus*, as the valid name for this species of tick. Since 1901 the name *ricinus* has been used continuously, and *reduvius* is a long-forgotten name. I feel that the proposal in the voting paper is against the principle of stability and I hope that it will be rejected. The name *ricinus* is a very well known and important one and is used in all modern textbooks and other general literature. It should by all means be protected.'

It is therefore clear that the *Ixodes* problem is solved by the direct application of the Code: *Acarus reduvius* Linnaeus, 1758 is its nominal type species, by monotypy, but the valid name for that species is *Acarus ricinus* Linnaeus, 1758, under Article 24a, by the First Reviser Action of Neumann, 1901. The present Direction can therefore be issued as a correction to Opinion 73 without the need for a further vote by the Commission.

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Direction:

Ixodes Latreille, 1795, *Mag. encyclop.* vol. 4, p. 18

ricinus, *Acarus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 615.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the present Direction No. 110 is issued in conformity with Article 24a of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (2nd edition, 1964) as a correction to Opinion 73 and that no exercise of its plenary powers by the Commission is involved.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

29 April 1981



International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1981. "Ixodes Latreille, 1795 (Arachnida: Acarina): Entry In Official List Of Generic Names Confirmed." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 38, 280–282.

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