As indicated in the application by Stockwell & Levi, Centruroides vittatus (Say, 1821) is a well known species of North American scorpion. Say clearly described a species from Georgia and Florida, rather than the species from Texas and surrounding areas to which the name is now applied, and nomenclatural confusion would result from a strict adherence to the Code.

The application sought to conserve Buthus vittatus for the Texas species by using the plenary powers to deem Wood (1863), who first described this species, to have been the author of the name. In consequence, the junior subjective synonym currently in use for the scorpion from Georgia and Florida, Centruroides hentzi (Banks, 1904), would also be conserved. However, this procedure has a number of disadvantages. (1) Wood (1863) did not use vittatus as the valid name for the Texas scorpion. (2) The name vittatus has been cited from Say (1821) in a large number of publications (a representative list of 50 is held by the Commission Secretariat; see para. 5 of the application) and confusion could arise if the name were now cited as of a different author and date (i.e. Wood, 1863). (3) Wood misidentified the Texas species as Scorpio carolinianus Palisot de Beauvois, 1805 and wrongly cited Buthus vittatus (spelt ‘vitatus’) as a synonym of the latter. (4) The name vittatus, if ascribed to Wood (1863), would appear 42 years later than when cited from Say (1821); an unreplaced homonym, Buthus vittatus Guérin Ménéville, [1838] (overlooked in Stockwell & Levi’s application, see comment (3) below), junior to B. vittatus Say, 1821, becomes senior to B. vittatus Wood, 1863, rendering the latter invalid.

It now appears better to retain authorship of the name Buthus vittatus as Say (1821) and, by means of the plenary powers, to designate a neotype for the Texas species of scorpion for which the name is currently in use. A suitable specimen in the U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., was mentioned in Stockwell & Levi’s application (para. 9). This course would also remove the synonymy of vittatus with the name hentzi Banks, 1904. Drs Stockwell and Levi now propose that, instead of the proposals on BZN 46: 234, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature be asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to designate as the neotype of Buthus vittatus Say, 1821 the adult male specimen labelled ‘Buthus vittatus Say, 1821, NEOTYPE, Det. S.A. Stockwell’, from ‘Brackettvile, Kinney Co., Texas, 21 May 1984 (S.A. Stockwell)’;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
(a) vittatus Say, 1821, as published in the binomen Buthus vittatus and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above;
(b) hentzi Banks, 1904, as published in the binomen Centrurus hentzi.
The application for the conservation of the specific names of *Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821 and *Centaurus hentzi* Banks, 1904 should be accepted. The proposal will stabilize the usage of the names for these two well known species of scorpion.

W. David Sissom  
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I fully agree that the name *Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821 should be conserved to maintain stability of nomenclature for what is perhaps the best known of North American scorpions, but an important homonym has been overlooked. Guérin Méneville ([1838], p. 50; see p. xii and Sherborn & Woodward, 1906, p. 336 for the date of publication) described a species *Buthus vittatus* from Chile, presumably unaware of Say’s *Buthus vittatus* in North America. Guérin Méneville’s *vittatus* was referred to the genus *Bothriurus* Peters, 1861 (p. 510) by Thorell (1876, pp. 168, 270), and it has subsequently been cited in that combination. The taxonomic history of *Bothriurus vittatus* (Guérin Méneville) is rather complicated, but it has generally been considered a true species for a long time (several subspecies have been proposed which are now regarded as either species themselves or synonyms of other species). It is highly desirable to retain *Bothriurus vittatus* (Guérin Méneville, [1838]) since it is currently in use for a South American scorpion. Guérin Méneville’s specific name *vittatus* has not, for the last 115 years, been included in its original genus or been considered congeneric with either of the North American species which have been called *vittatus*. Although a junior primary homonym, it has never been replaced (Articles 52b and 60 of the Code). To replace the name now would be pedantic and would cause unnecessary disruption in the nomenclature of this species. The species has been included in the following works: Pocock (1893, p. 94), Mello-Leitao (1945, pp. 191–192) and Maury (1981, p. 107). A representative list of a further 23 references demonstrating usage of the name is held by the Commission Secretariat.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

1. to use its plenary powers to rule that the specific name *vittatus* Guérin Méneville, [1838], as published in the binomen *Buthus vittatus*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821;

2. to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *vittatus* Guérin Méneville, [1838], as published in the binomen *Buthus vittatus* (not invalid despite being a junior primary homonym of *Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821).

Additional references


Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific name *Artemia franciscana*

**Kellogg, 1906** (*Crustacea, Branchiopoda*)

(Case 2728; see BZN 47: 178–183)

(1) P. Sorgeloos, P. Lavens & W. Tackaert

*Artemia Reference Center, Faculty of Agricultural Science, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Rozier 44, B–9000 Gent, Belgium*

It is with great interest that we have read the proposed conservation of the name of the broadly distributed North American brine shrimp species *Artemia franciscana*.

Since the publication of Bowen et al. (1978) this name has been fully accepted in the literature. Except for the paper by Amat Domenech (1980; see BZN 47: 180, para. 6) we do not know of any recent publication which has used a synonym of *franciscana*, and we support the proposals on BZN 47: 180–181.

(2) Francisco Amat

*Istituto de Acuicultura de Torre de la Sal, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Ribero de Cabanes, 12595 Torre de la Sal, Castellón, Spain*

I support the proposals by Belk and Bowen, which will clarify the nomenclature of North American *Artemia*.

(3) Support for the proposals on BZN 47: 180–181 has also been received from the following: Prof C. Barigozzi (*Dipartimento di Genetica e di Biologia dei Microrganismi, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 26, 20133 Milano, Italy*); Dr Laura Torreterra Blanco (*Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, U.S.A.*); Dr A.M. Maeda-Martinez (*Institute of Ecology, University of Gent, K. Ledeganckstraat 35, B–9000 Gent, Belgium*); Dr Graziella Mura (*Dipartimento di Biologia Animale e dell’Uomo, Università di Roma ‘La Sapienza’, Roma, Italy*).

Comments on the proposed precedence of *Bathynomus* A. Milne Edwards, 1879

(*Crustacea, Isopoda*) over *Palaega* Woodward, 1870

(Case 2721; see BZN 47: 27–29, 212–213, 290–293)

(1) Sergio de Almeida Rodrigues

*Istituto de Biociencias, Universidade de São Paulo, Caixa Postal 11461, São Paulo, Brazil*

In my opinion *Bathynomus* should be given precedence over *Palaega*. To drop the widely recognized name *Bathynomus* would create a lot of trouble among non-

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