

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

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

Secretary to the Commission

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DIRECTION 3

Determination of the gender to be attributed to certain generic names placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Rulings given in *Opinions* 182 to 194



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN DIRECTION 3

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Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*) (27th July 1948)

B. The Members of the Commission

(*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*)

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Dr. L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (12th August 1953)

DIRECTION 3

DETERMINATION OF THE GENDER TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO CERTAIN GENERIC NAMES PLACED ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" BY THE RULINGS GIVEN IN "OPINIONS" 182 TO 194

RULING : (1) The gender to be attributed to each of the under-mentioned generic names dealt with in the *Opinions* severally noted below is hereby determined as being the masculine gender :—(a) *Hypselopus* Burmeister, 1835 (*Opinion* 187); (b) *Nummulites* Lamarck, 1801 (*Opinion* 192); (c) *Procheneosaurus* Matthew, 1920 (*Opinion* 193).

(2) The gender to be attributed to each of the under-mentioned generic names dealt with in the *Opinions* severally noted below is hereby determined as being the feminine gender :—(a) *Squilla* Fabricius, 1787 (*Opinion* 186); (b) *Bitis* Gray, 1842 (*Opinion* 188); (c) *Arca* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Opinion* 189).

(3) The gender to be attributed to the generic name *Ophiceras* Griesbach, 1880, dealt with in *Opinion* 194 is hereby determined as being the neuter gender.

I.—THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT "DIRECTION"

On 12th May 1954 Mr. Francis Hemming, as Secretary, submitted to the International Commission the following proposals relating to the gender to be attributed to certain generic names placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by Rulings given in *Opinions* 182 to 194, decisions on this question being needed in order to complete the review of those of the *Opinions* included in volume 3 of the present series which were rendered before July 1948, in accordance with the General Directive relating to the review by the Commission of *Opinions*

rendered by it prior to the foregoing date, given to it by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948. The present *Direction* completes the review by the Commission of the Rulings given in the foregoing *Opinions*. The previous series of decisions has been embodied in *Direction 1*.¹

Gender to be attributed to seven generic names placed on the " Official List of Generic Names in Zoology " in " Opinions " 186 to 189 and 192 to 194

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,
Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

In submitting the Index prepared for Volume 3 of the work *Opinions and Declarations*, Miss Joan Kelley, B.Sc., the Commission's Indexer, has drawn my attention to the fact that so far the Commission has not assigned a gender to the following seven generic names placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in *Opinions* 187 to 189 and 192 to 194 :—(1) *Squilla* Fabricius, 1787 (*Opinion* 186); (2) *Hypselopus* Burmeister, 1835 (*Opinion* 187); (3) *Bitis* Gray, 1842 (*Opinion* 188); (4) *Arca* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Opinion* 189); (5) *Nummulites* Lamarck, 1801 (*Opinion* 192); (6) *Procheneosaurus* Matthew, 1920 (*Opinion* 193); (7) *Ophiceras* Griesbach, 1880 (*Opinion* 194).

2. Proposals in regard to the foregoing matter should have been included in the submission made with Voting Paper V.P.(54) 5² issued on 5th February last, and I regret that through an oversight this was not done. It is important that this omission should now be rectified as quickly as possible, since until this is done, it will not be possible to publish the Index and Title Page for volume 3.

3. The words of which the generic names enumerated in paragraph 1 above consist are either genuine Latin words or barbarous words in Latin form or arbitrary combinations of letters constituting synthetic neo-Latin words. In no case is there any doubt as to the gender to be attributed to the word concerned, though in the case of the word *Nummulites* there have been differences in practice among specialists in the group concerned. In this case, I have consulted (1) Dr. L. R. Cox (*British Museum (Natural History) London*), (2) through Dr. Cox, Dr. W. A. Macfadyen, the well-known authority on the Foraminifera (who with E. J. A. Kenny published in 1934 a paper on the gender of names in this group) and (3) Professor L. R. Grensted, the noted

¹ *Direction 1* (here referred to) has been published as Part 30 of the present volume (: 401—416). *Direction 2*, which has been published as Part 52 of volume 2 (: 613—628) of the present work, contains the first instalment of the decisions taken by the Commission, when reviewing the Rulings given in the *Opinions* included in that volume.

² The Voting Paper here referred to is the Voting Paper on which the decision later embodied in *Direction 1* was taken by the Commission.

scholar, who for some years has kindly acted as Honorary Classical Adviser to the Commission. It will be seen from the letters received from these authorities (reproduced in the Annexe attached) that all are agreed that the correct gender for the foregoing name is masculine, and further are of the opinion that adherence to this gender is desirable.

4. The proposal now submitted is that the Commission should give a Ruling that the genders to be accepted for the generic names specified in paragraph 1 above, being names which have been placed on the *Official List* in the *Opinions* there cited, are as follows :—

- (1) *Masculine gender* :—*Hypselopus* Burmeister, 1835 ; *Nummulites* Lamarck, 1801 ; *Procheneosaurus* Matthew, 1920 ;
- (2) *Feminine gender* :—*Squilla* Fabricius, 1787 ; *Bitis* Gray, 1842 ; *Arca* Linnaeus, 1758 ;
- (3) *Neuter gender* : *Ophiceras* Griesbach, 1880.

ANNEXE

Question of the gender of the name “*Nummulites*” Lamarck, 1801

DOCUMENT 1

Advice received from Dr. L. R. COX

(letter dated 29th April 1954)

This seems to be rather a controversial question. Lamarck, when founding the genus, treated the name as feminine, as did also d'Archiac in his classical monograph on the *Nummulites* (1850), and a number of later workers, including P. Rozlozsnik in his “*Einleitung in das Studium der Nummulinrn und Assilinen*” (1927). On the other hand most modern authors seem to treat the name as masculine, and I should regard it as masculine, as it must be derived from the masculine word “*nummulus*” with the addition of “*ιτης*”, meaning “of the nature of”. W. A. Macfadyen has called my attention to a paper by himself and E. J. A. Kenny in the *Journ. R. Microsc. Soc.*, vol. 54 (1934), pp. 177—181, entitled “On the correct writing in form and gender of the names of the Foraminifera”, in which it is maintained that all names ending in “*ites*” should be regarded as masculine, but I think that this is very controversial and other authors have not agreed with it. In one recent paper on *Nummulites* which I have consulted successive specific names have masculine and feminine terminations respectively, so that the author seems to have adopted an attitude of impartiality. This seems to be a case in which the Commission should use its dictatorial powers, and in my opinion *Nummulites* should be declared a masculine name.

DOCUMENT 2

Advice received from Dr. W. A. MACFADYEN

(letter dated 1st May 1954 addressed to Dr. L. R. Cox)

The two references I mentioned to you were : (a) W. A. Macfadyen and E. J. A. Kenny, 1934, "The correct writing in form and gender of the names of the Foraminifera" *J. Roy. Microscop. Soc.* **44** : 177—181 (specially pp. 177—8) ; and (b) A. Silvestri, 1939, "Foraminiferi dell'Eocene della Somalia. Parte II". *Pal. italiana*, **32** : Suppl. 4 (bottom of p. 2 of separate (= p. 80), and footnote 3 on same page).

Kenny's view as a classical scholar was that the ending *ites* was definitely masculine. I have now looked through a voluminous correspondence I had with Kenny and others about our paper before publication, but this particular point does not seem to have been queried by anyone. Our critics included Glover (then Public Orator at Cambridge), W. D. Lang, d'Arcy Thompson, and H. D. Thomas. Silvestri quotes Neumayr, 1899 as getting quite hot about it, and writing that those who consider it feminine are insensate, barbarous and arbitrary.

Silvestri considers it feminine, writing that to adopt it as masculine is contrary to the common rules of the Latin language. The matter would thus seem to resolve itself into a difference of opinion between classical scholars, which a man of science is not competent to decide. Surely classical scholars ought to be capable of deciding it ?

The number of authors using Nummulites as masculine or feminine seems roughly equal. Silvestri lists rather more using it as feminine, but he omits many names of those using it as masculine by lumping them nameless as followers of Henri Douvillé. Many of the more modern authors are thus omitted. They include Boussac 1911, etc., Doncieux 1926, Arni 1935, de Cizancourt 1930, etc., Nuttall 1925, etc., L. M. Davies 1927, 1930, Lluca 1929, Vredenburg 1909, Cotter 1914, Henson 1948. Older writers using it as masculine and omitted by Silvestri include Tallavignes 1848, Leymerie 1844, Risso 1826, Tellini 1888, Conrad 1846, Deshayes 1838, 1848.

There is a similarity of usage in the gender of *Orbitolites*. Of other generic names in *ites*, I have only noticed a few, with few species, mostly not ascertainably masculine or feminine inflected.

It certainly seems up to classical scholars to decide the matter from the form of the word.

DOCUMENT 3

Advice received from Professor L. R. GRENSTED, Honorary Classical Adviser to the Commission

(letter dated 5th May 1954)

I think there can be no doubt that *Nummulites* should be regarded as masculine. The word is clearly a barbarism, compounded of the Latin *nummus* (masculine) and the Greek termination—*ίτης* (masculine). Words with the termination *-ites* are very rare in classical Latin and are almost always direct transliterations of Greek words. Thus :—

chernites—*χερσίτης* (Pliny, etc.) is masculine

sorites—*ώρείτης* (Cicero, etc.) is masculine

similarly

eremita, in spite of its feminine termination, is transliterated from *έρημίτης*, and is masculine.

Silvestri's plea that to make it masculine " is contrary to the common rules of the Latin language " is apparently based upon the fact that Latin nouns ending in *-es* are commonly feminine. But *-ites*, being a Greek termination, does not come under this rule.

The only example I know of a Latin form in *-ites* not based on the Greek is *Samarites*—a Samaritan, found, I think, only once, in an obscure writer (the dictionary reference is Hadr. ap. Vop. Sat. 8) and this again is masculine.

In later Latin we again have forms like *Stylites*, based on the Greek, and masculine.

The only escape from this would be an original opinion by the author of the generic name, based upon some other derivation. But the only possible one I can see would be based on *nummus* and *λίθος*, and would be very irregular at that. And in any case both words are masculine. [Cf. *Coprolite*, *Coprolith*].

Orbitolites is a very obscure word indeed. But it should, I think, obviously be treated, like *Nummulites* (from which it might even be formed by some sort of analogy) as masculine.

II.—DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

2. *Issue of Voting Paper V.P. (O.M.) (54) 6* : Concurrently with the submission to the Commission of the proposals set out in paragraph 4 of the paper by the Secretary, reproduced in paragraph 1 above, a Call for a Vote, numbered Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.) (54) 6, was issued on 12th May 1954 under the One-Month Rule. In this Voting Paper each Member of the Commission was asked (1) to state whether he agreed "that, in conformity with the General Directive relating to the recording on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the gender of each name placed thereon prior to 1948, issued to the International Commission by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, the gender specified in paragraph 4 of the note by the Secretary submitted simultaneously with the present Voting Paper should be entered in the foregoing *Official List* in respect of the names enumerated in that paragraph", and (2), if he did not so agree, as regards any given item, to indicate the item concerned.

3. *The prescribed Voting Period* : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the prescribed Voting Period closed on 12th June 1954.

4. *Particulars of the Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.) (54) 6* : The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.) (54) 6 at the close of the prescribed Voting Period was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following seventeen (17) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received)* :

Sylvester-Bradley ; Lemche ; Riley ; Holthuis ;
Hering ; Dymond ; Vokes ; Stoll ; Esaki ; Hankó ;
Hemming ; Jaczewski ; Boschma ; Bradley (J. C.) ;
Cabrera ; Bonnet ; Pearson ;

(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *On leave of absence* :

Mertens ;

(d) *Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.) (54) 6* was not returned by one (1) Commissioner :

do Amaral.

5. *Declaration of Result of Vote* : On 13th June 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P. (O.M.) (54)6, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 4 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

6. On 13th June 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P. (O.M.) (54) 6.

7. The original references for the generic names, the gender of which is determined by the Ruling given in the present *Direction*, are specified in the *Opinions* in which decisions on those names were severally taken by the Commission.

8. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

9. The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction Three* (3) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Thirteenth day of June, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING