

OPINION 120

THE STATUS OF *Achatinus*, 1810

SUMMARY.—*Achatinus*, 1810, is emendation of and therefore objective synonym of *Achatina*, 1799; the designation of *zebra* as type of *Achatinus* contravenes Article 30a and c. *Achatinus*, 1810, invalidates any later use of *Achatinus* in a different sense.

STATEMENT OF CASE.—The following case has been submitted for Opinion by Dr. H. A. Pilsbry and Dr. H. Burrington Baker of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences:

What is the status of emendations of generic names?

- (1) Can an emended form be used as a valid name of a genus if
 (a) the original form is preoccupied or
 (b) if the emendation has a different generic type?

- (2) Can an emendation preoccupy a new generic name of later date?

Case 1. Can *Achatinus* Montfort be used as the name of a genus? The following names are included in this problem:

Achatina Lamarck, 1799, June or July; Mém. Soc. Hist. Nat. Paris, p. 75, monotype *Bulla achatina* L., 1758, Syst. Nat., X, p. 728.

Achatinus Montfort, 1810, Conchyl. System., II, pp. 418, 419, emendation of *Achatina*, but with type by original [definite] designation (p. 419); *A. zebra* = *Bulinus zebra* Bruguière, 1792, Encycl. méth., I, p. 357, no. 100.

Cochlītoma Férussac, 1821, Hist. N. g. et p. Moll., Table Limaçons, p. 28, type designated by Pilsbry, 1904, Man. Conch., 2nd ser., 17, p. 78, *Bulinus zebra* Brug.

Achatinus Montfort is undoubtedly an emendation of *Achatina* Lamarck because (a) Montfort almost always changed generic names so as to give them a masculine ending, and (b) he included "*Achatina zebra* Roissy" in the synonymy of his type species.

The types of *Achatina* Lamarck and *Achatinus* Montfort are now placed in separate genera. Can *Achatinus* be used for the African genus of pulmonate snails (typified by *Bulinus zebra* Brug.) or must the name become *Cochlītoma* Férussac?

DISCUSSION OF CASE.—The Secretary has verified the following references:

Achatina Lamarck, 1799, Mém. Soc. Hist. nat. Paris, p. 75, mt. (Article 30c) and tat. (Article 30d) *Bulla achatina* Linn.

Montfort, 1810, Conch. Syst., vol. 2, pp. 418-420, referring to the vernacular name "L'Agathine" quotes a generic name, *Achatinus*, gives a generic diagnosis and adds "*Espèce servant de type au genre, Agathine zébre, Achatinus zebra*," with bibliographic references and technical and vernacular names.

He states that:

Les Agathines forment un genre entièrement composé de mollusques terrestres, et c'est parmi eux que l'on rencontre les plus grands de ces mollusques; celui que nous décrivons tient dans cette classe la second rang

Thus it is clear that *Achatinus* was not a monotypical genus for Montfort, 1810.

On page 420 Montfort adds:

C'est à de Lamarck que l'on doit l'établissement du genre agathine; il donna pour type l'agathine variée, *bullâ achatina*, de Linné, dans son Système des animaux sans vertèbres.

It is obvious that *Achatinus*, 1810, is an emendation of and therefore an absolute synonym of *Achatina*, 1799.

This case was submitted to Commissioner Bather for independent opinion which he formulated as follows:

Achatinus being merely an emendation must have the same genotype as *Achatina* which, fortunately, was monotypic. Montfort had no power to designate any other type.

Therefore, *Achatinus* cannot be used for *Bulinus zebra* Brug. if it belongs, as now alleged, to a different genus from *Bulla achatina* Linn.

Therefore, on the evidence submitted, the name for a genus with *B. zebra* as genotype must be *Cochlitoma* Férussac.

The Secretary recommends that the Commission adopt as its Opinion the following:

SUMMARY.—*Achatinus*, 1810, is emendation of and therefore objective synonym of *Achatina*, 1799; the designation of *zebra* as type of *Achatinus* contravenes Article 30a and c. *Achatinus*, 1810, invalidates any later use of *Achatinus* in a different sense.

Opinion prepared by Bather and Stiles.

Opinion concurred in by ten (10) Commissioners: Apstein, Bather, Chapman, Dabbene, Handlirsch, Horvath, Silvestri, Stejneger, Stiles, Stone.

Opinion dissented from by no Commissioner.

Not voting, eight (8) Commissioners: Bolivar, Hartert, Ishikawa, Jordan (D. S.), Jordan (K.), Kolbe, Neveu-Lemaire, Warren.