

OPINION 131

THE TYPE SPECIES OF *Tromikosoma* MORTENSEN, 1903

SUMMARY.—The type species of *Tromikosoma* is *T. koehleri*.

PRESENTATION OF CASE.—Dr. Mortensen, of Copenhagen, has presented the following case for Opinion:

Pomel, in his paper "Classification méthodique et Genera des Echinides vivants et fossiles", 1883, p. 108, established a genus *Echinosophoma*, citing the species *Phormosophoma uranus* A. Agassiz and *Phormosophoma tenuis* A. Agassiz as belonging to that genus without designating any of them as the genotype.

In my work "Echinoidea I. The Danish Ingolf Expedition", vol. 4, no. 1, p. 62, 1903, I adopted the said genus of Pomel, referring to it the same two species as did Pomel, but no genotype was designated. In this same work I established the genus *Tromikosoma*, with the single species *Tromikosoma koehleri* n. sp., which is accordingly the genotype of that genus.

A. Agassiz and H. L. Clark, in their work "Hawaiian and other Pacific Echini. The Echinothuridae" (Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 34, no. 3, p. 160, 1909) designate *Phormosophoma tenue* A. Agassiz as the genotype of *Echinosophoma*, which is made to include also my genus *Tromikosoma*—which I agree to be correct.

The name *Echinosophoma*, however, was preoccupied, no less than three times: by Audinet-Serville, 1839, for an earwig; by Wollaston, 1854, for a beetle; and by Semper, 1868, for a Holothurian. Accordingly, it cannot be used for the echinoids, and the name *Tromikosoma* must take its place.

Which species is now to be the genotype of *Tromikosoma*, *Phormosophoma tenue* A. Agassiz or *Tromikosoma koehleri* Mrtsn.?

I would think the latter ought to remain the genotype of *Tromikosoma* also in its extended sense. But the matter does not seem to me quite clear, so it would seem better to have the Commission give its Opinion about the case, and to give it a more general form. I may then put the question thus: When an older genus proves to be a synonym of a later genus, which species is then to be regarded as the genotype, that of the older or that of the later genus?

DISCUSSION.—This case was submitted to the Commission in Circular Letter No. 252 for informal expression of Opinion and informal vote. As a result the following ten Commissioners registered their view that the species *koehleri* is the correct type: Apstein, Bather, Chapman, Fantham, K. Jordan, Peters, Richter, Silvestri, Stiles and Stone. The following two Commissioners view the species *tenue* as the type: Ishikawa and Pellegrin.

The informal votes were accompanied by the following views:

Chapman remarks: "*Tromikosoma koehleri* is monotypic and founded by Mortensen in 1903. Therefore that species has priority [as genotype-C. W. S.] over *tenue* (*Phormosophoma*) selected by Agassiz and Clark in 1909."

Ishikawa remarks: "I consider the specific name *tenue* is to be used for the species, even when the generic name was changed. The reason is the older name has the right of priority in the present case when the *koehlerii* and *tenue* are used for one and the same species."

K. Jordan remarks: "*Tromikosoma* has absorbed an older generic concept which has no valid generic name. The genotype of *Tromikosoma* thus extended remains the same as before, *T. koehlerii*. *Tromikosoma* was not proposed as a substitute for the preoccupied name *Echinosoma*."

Peters remarks: "*koehlerii* is the type of *Tromikosoma* by monotypy; it was not one of the originally included species of *Echinosoma* and is of course excluded from consideration in determining the type of the latter genus."

Richter remarks, "*koehlerii* ist der Typus von *Tromikosoma* Mortensen, 1903; *tenue* ist nicht der Typus von *Tromikosoma* Mort., 1903, sondern von *Echinosoma* Pomel, 1833;—gleichgültig, welches das Verhältnis der Genus-Namen *Tromikosoma* und *Echinosoma* zu einander ist. Da die Gattung *Tromikosoma* Mortensen, 1903, bei ihrer Aufstellung *monotypisch* war, ist *koehlerii* ihr Typus. *Daran ändert sich nichts* durch die Frage, ob der Name *Tromikosoma* (unabänderlich mit dem Genotypus *koehlerii* verbunden) an die Stelle eines anderen Gattung-Namens zu treten hat (z. B. an die Stelle von *Echinosoma* mit dem Genotypus *tenue*) oder nicht. In Übereinstimmung mit meinem Kollegen Dr. R. Mertens."

Silvestri remarks: "because the genus author designated that newer and not another."

Stiles remarks: "*koehlerii* is the type species of *Tromikosoma*, and this point is not influenced by any restriction or by any broadening of the generic concept."

Stone remarks: "When two genera are united, such action in no way affects the type of either. The broader genus thus formed will take the oldest available name based on any included species, as its name; and such name retains the type previously established as its type."

On basis of the foregoing informal vote and the arguments presented, the Commission adopts as its Opinion the following: The type species of *Tromikosoma* is *T. koehlerii*.

Opinion prepared by Stiles.

Opinion concurred in by twelve (12) Commissioners: Apstein, Bather, Cabrera, Chapman, Esaki, Fantham, K. Jordan, Peters, Richter, Silvestri, Stiles, Stone.

Opinion dissented from by two (2) Commissioners: Ishikawa, Pellegrin.

Not voting, six (6) Commissioners: Boliver, Handlirsch, Horvath, Stejneger, Stephenson (successor Calman).

Cabrera adds:

This case is clear. *Tromikosoma* being a monotypic genus, its single species, *koehlerii*, is the type without any shadow of doubt. The question if *koehlerii* is or is not the same species as *tenue*, is quite a different point, and one to be discussed, not by the Nomenclature Commission, but by echinodermatologists.