

OPINION 1974

Polydora websteri* Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943 (Annelida, Polychaeta): specific name conserved by a ruling that it is not to be treated as a replacement for *P. caeca* Webster, 1879, and a lectotype designated for *P. websteri

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Polychaeta; SPIONIDAE; *Polydora caeca*; *Polydora websteri*; mudworms.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the specific name *websteri* Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943, as published in the binomen *Polydora websteri*, is to be treated as the specific name of a then new nominal species and not as a replacement name for *Polydora caeca* Webster, 1879.
- (2) The specimen LACM-AHF POLY 1628 collected in the mouth of Milford River, Long Island Sound, Connecticut, by J.B. Engle in 1943 and kept in the Allan Hancock Foundation Polychaete Collection, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, is hereby designated as the lectotype of *Polydora websteri* Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943.
- (3) The name *websteri* Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943, as published in the binomen *Polydora websteri* and as defined by the lectotype designated in (2) above is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3080

An application to conserve the specific name of *Polydora websteri* Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943 by a ruling that it should not be treated as a replacement name for the junior homonym *P. caeca* Webster, 1879, and to designate a lectotype for *P. websteri*, was received from Dr Vasily I. Radashevsky (*Institute of Marine Biology, Vladivostok, Russia*) and Dr Jason D. Williams (*University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, U.S.A.*) on 5 February 1998. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 55: 212–216 (December 1998). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support of the application from Dr Geoffrey B. Read (*National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Kilbirnie, Wellington, New Zealand*) and from Dr Mary E. Petersen (*Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark*) were published in BZN 57: 43–45 (March 2000).

The papers cited in the application as ‘Radashevsky, in press’ (para. 9) and ‘Williams & Radashevsky, in press’ (para. 10) were subsequently published and cited in the comment by Dr Read (BZN 57: 44 and 45 respectively).

A note of clarification by Drs Radashevsky and Williams on the status of the new name *Polydora neocaeca* Williams & Radashevsky, 1999 was published in BZN 57: 110–111 (June 2000).

It was noted on the voting paper that in 1971 Blake (p. 6) listed LACM-AHF 1569 in the Los Angeles County Museum as ‘Type’ of *Polydora websteri*. The nine

specimens originally under this number were collected from the Gulf of Mexico and Lemon Bay, Florida by Hartman on 10 January 1938. Blake's (1971) action did not constitute a lectotype designation (Article 74.6 of the Code); not only was it unlikely (see below) that LACM-AHF 1569 formed part of Hartman's syntype series for *P. websteri*, but under the Code the type material of *P. websteri* was Webster's (lost) single specimen of *P. caeca*. Commission action was needed to treat *P. websteri* as the name of a new species.

Under *Polydora websteri*, Hartman (1943) wrote: 'The collection on which the present description is based is deposited in the Allan Hancock Foundation of the University of Southern California. It was collected from vesicles on empty oyster shells, in the mouth of the Milford River, by J.B. Engle of the Milford Wildlife Laboratory'. This material, numbered N1929 by Hartman, consisted of 13 syntypes collected on 4 January 1943, and is that from which the lectotype has been selected.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 2000 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 55: 214–215. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2001 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Calder, Eschmeyer, Kerzhner, Kraus, Lamas, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Ng, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Ride, Song, Štys

Negative votes — 1: Cogger.

No votes were received from Dupuis and Mawatari.

Ng commented: 'Approval of the application will maintain stability and I support the applicants' proposal to treat Hartman's (1943) name *websteri* as the name for a distinct species'.

Original reference

The following is the original reference to the name placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present opinion:

websteri, *Polydora*, Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943, *Biological Bulletin*, 85: 70.

The following is the reference for the description of the lectotype of *Polydora websteri* Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943:

Radashevsky, V.I. 1999. *Ophelia*, 51(2): 107–113.