

**OPINION 2017 (Case 2983)*****Achatinellastrum* Pfeiffer, 1854 and ACHATINELLIDAE Gulick, 1873  
(Mollusca, Gastropoda): conserved**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the generic name *Achatinellastrum* Pfeiffer, 1854 for a terrestrial snail from Oahu (one of the Hawaiian islands) and the family-group name ACHATINELLIDAE Gulick, 1873 are conserved. These names were threatened by the unused senior subjective synonyms *Helicteres* Beck, 1837 and HELICTERINAE Pease, 1870, which have been suppressed except for homonymy.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Gastropoda; ACHATINELLIDAE; *Achatinella*; *Achatinellastrum*; tree snails; Hawaii.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power the following names are suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
  - (a) *Helicteres* Beck, 1837;
  - (b) *Helicter* Pease, 1862.
- (2) The name *Achatinellastrum* Pfeiffer, 1854 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Pilsbry & Cooke (1914) *Achatinella producta* Reeve, 1850, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *producta* Reeve, 1850, as published in the binomen *Achatinella producta* (specific name of the type species of *Achatinellastrum* Pfeiffer, 1854), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name ACHATINELLIDAE Gulick, 1873 (type genus *Achatinella* Swainson, 1828) is hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.
- (5) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Helicteres* Beck, 1837, as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
  - (b) *Helicter* Pease, 1862, as suppressed in (1)(b) above.
- (6) The name HELICTERINAE Pease, 1870 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology (invalid because the name of the type genus has been suppressed).

**History of Case**

An application for the conservation the generic name *Achatinellastrum* Pfeiffer, 1854 together with the family name ACHATINELLIDAE Gulick, 1873 was received from Robert H. Cowie (*Center for Conservation Research and Training, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.*) and Neal L. Evenhuis (*Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.*) on 3 May 1995. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 58: 188–192 (September 2001). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2002 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 58: 190–191.

At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2002 the votes were as follows: 22 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 2 Commissioners voted AGAINST, Evenhuis abstained, no votes were received from Böhme and Dupuis, Ng was on leave of absence.

Voting against, Alonso-Zarazaga commented that ‘to achieve the goals intended by the proposal, there is no need to fully suppress these names as they could be needed when the phylogeny of these taxa is better known. I would be in agreement with a conditional suppression when these taxa are considered to be synonyms’. Likewise, Cogger commented: ‘In those groups whose taxonomy remains relatively fluid, experience indicates that subjective synonymy of two taxa is often removed with improved methods of taxonomic resolution. For this reason I oppose this specific case and generally oppose the suppression of senior subjective synonyms when precedence achieves the desired nomenclatural outcome of stability and universality while leaving the senior names available’.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Official Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Achatinellastrum* Pfeiffer, 1854, *Malakozoologische Blätter*, **1**: 133.

ACHATINELLIDAE Gulick, 1873, *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, **1873**: 89.

*Helicter* Pease, 1862, *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, **1862**: 6.

*Helicteres* Beck, 1837, *Index Molluscorum* . . . , part 1, p. 51.

HELICTERINAE Pease, 1870, *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, **1869**: 645.

*producta*, *Achatinella*, Reeve, 1850, *Achatinella*. Monograph of the genus. *Conchologia Iconica*, vol. 6, pl. 2, sp. 13.