

**OPINION 2021 (Case 3048)****NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845 (Insecta, Lepidoptera): not given precedence over ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that priority should be maintained for the crambid moth subfamily name ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835. A proposal had been made to give precedence to the subjective synonym NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Lepidoptera; ACENTROPINAE; NYMPHULINAE; *Acentropus*; *Nymphula*; *Acentropus garnonsii*; *Phalaena stagnata*; aquatic caterpillars.

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**Ruling**

- (1) The family-group name NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845 and other family-group names based on *Nymphula* Schrank, 1802 are not to be given priority over ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835 and other family-group names based on *Acentropus* Curtis, 1834 whenever they are considered to be synonyms. The Principle of Priority is to be upheld and ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835 has priority over NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845 whenever they are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
  - (a) ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835, with the endorsement that it has priority over NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845 (in accordance with the Principle of Priority) whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845, with the endorsement that it is not to be given precedence over ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The name *Acentropus* Curtis, 1834 (gender: masculine) type species by original designation *Acentropus garnonsii* Curtis, 1834 (generic name of the type genus of ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835) is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *garnonsii* Curtis, 1834, as published in the binomen *Acentropus garnonsii* (specific name of the type species of *Acentropus* Curtis, 1834), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (5) The name *Nymphula* Schrank, 1802 already appears on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology (see Opinion 1406), but the entry is herewith emended to record that *Nymphula* Schrank, 1802 is the generic name of the type genus of NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845.
- (6) The name *stagnata* Donovan, 1806, as published in the binomen *Phalaena stagnata* (specific name of the type species of *Nymphula* Schrank, 1802), already appears on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology (see Opinion 1406) and no emendment to the List is necessary.

### History of Case 3048

An application for conservation of the usage of the name NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845 by giving it precedence over the name ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835 whenever the two names are regarded as synonyms was received from M. Alma Solis (*Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agriculture Research Service, USDA, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) on 9 June 1997. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 56: 31–33 (March 1999). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments opposing the application were published in BZN 57: 46–48 (March 2000) and BZN 59: 131–132. Comments in support of the application were published in BZN 58: 305–306, BZN 59: 38–40 and BZN 59: 132.

The application was sent to the Commission for voting on 1 March 2001. The case received a majority of the votes cast but failed to reach the required two-thirds majority (11 votes FOR and 9 AGAINST; one Commissioner abstained).

On 1 September 2002 the application was submitted for a second vote under Bylaw 35. An additional comment received from Ernst Arenberger (*Börnergasse, Wien, Austria*) was added to the voting paper: 'The name ACENTROPINAE has been selected by Speidel (1981, 1984) as the oldest name for a complex of genera. Meanwhile, the name was used in 1994 by Arenberger. This name should be maintained for the sake of stability'.

### Additional reference

Arenberger, A. 1994. Zusammenfassende Darstellung der Mikrolepidopterenfauna Zyperns. *Annales Musei Goulandris*, 9: 253–336.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2002 the members of the Commission were invited to revote on the proposals published in BZN 56: 32.

At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2002 the votes were as follows: 15 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 9 Commissioners voted AGAINST, Martins de Souza abstained, no votes were received from Böhme and Dupuis, Ng was on leave of absence.

Voting against, Brothers commented: 'This proposal does not concern rejection of the attempted resurrection of a forgotten name, but is an attempt to subvert a major principle of the Code as applied in a relatively recent case of synonymy. To approve it would damage the foundations of the Code'.

### Original references

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

- ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835, *Illustrations of British entomology, Mandibulata*, p. 148.  
NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, 1845, *Catalogue méthodique des Lépidoptères d'Europe*, p. 201.  
*Acentropus* Curtis, 1834, *British Entomology*, 11: folio 497.  
*garnonsii*, *Acentropus*, Curtis, 1834, *British Entomology*, 11: folio 497.