

**OPINION 2029 (Case 3020)*****Megalotragus* Van Hoepen, 1932 (Mammalia, Artiodactyla): conserved, and *Alcelaphus kattwinkeli* Schwarz, 1932 (currently *Megalotragus kattwinkeli*): specific name conserved**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the generic name *Megalotragus* Van Hoepen, 1932 and the specific name *M. kattwinkeli* (Schwartz, 1932) are conserved. The generic name has been used consistently for a genus of very large African fossil antelopes (family BOVIDAE), dating from the Pliocene-late Pleistocene. The specific name *M. kattwinkeli* refers to an East African species of the genus. The names were threatened by *Rhynotragus* Reck, 1925, which had been used only once in 1997, and *R. semiticus* Reck, 1925, which had remained unused, and these have been suppressed except for homonymy.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Mammalia; Artiodactyla; BOVIDAE; ALCELA-PHINI; antelopes; Pliocene; Pleistocene; Africa; *Megalotragus*; *Megalotragus priscus*; *Megalotragus kattwinkeli*.

**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power the following names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
  - (a) the generic name *Rhynotragus* Reck, 1925;
  - (b) the specific name *semiticus* Reck, 1925, as published in the binomen *Rhynotragus semiticus*.
- (2) The name *Megalotragus* Van Hoepen, 1932 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Megalotragus eucornutus* Van Hoepen, 1932 (a junior subjective synonym of *Bubalis priscus* Broom, 1909), is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *kattwinkeli* Schwarz, 1932, as published in the binomen *Alcelaphus kattwinkeli* and as defined by the holotype, specimen no. VI-1099 in the Bayerischen Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und historische Geologie in Munich;
  - (b) *priscus* Broom, 1909, as published in the binomen *Bubalis priscus* (senior subjective synonym of *Megalotragus eucornutus* Van Hoepen, 1932, the type species of *Megalotragus* Van Hoepen, 1932).
- (4) The name *Rhynotragus* Reck, 1925 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology, as suppressed in (1)(a) above.
- (5) The name *semiticus* Reck, 1925, as published in the binomen *Rhynotragus semiticus* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

### History of Case 3020

An application for the conservation of the name *Megalotragus* Van Hoepen, 1932 and of the specific name of *Alcelaphus kattwinkeli* Schwarz, 1932 was received from Dr A.W. Gentry (*The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) and Mrs Anthea Gentry (*Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, U.K.*) on 15 May 1996. The case was published in BZN 56: 42–47 (March 1999). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

It was noted on the voting paper that there was a prima facie case for the conservation of the names *Megalotragus* and *A. kattwinkeli* under Article 23.9.3 of the Code (para. 5 of the application). The application was supported by Vrba (1997; para. 5 of the application) and by Dr John M. Harris (*Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.*) who noted (in litt. to A.W. Gentry, May 1995): 'I have seen a copy of the manuscript on the rediscovery of some Olduvai bovid types [published by Gentry, Gentry & Mayr, December 1995]. I heartedly endorse your decision to have *Rhynotragus* set aside'. The name *Rhynotragus* has not been used in place of *Megalotragus* before or since a single use in 1997.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2002 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 56: 45.

At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2002 the votes were as follows: 25 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, no Commissioners voted AGAINST, no votes were received from Böhme and Dupuis. Ng was on leave of absence.

### 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:

*kattwinkeli*, *Alcelaphus*, Schwarz, 1932, *Zentralblatt für Mineralogie, Geologie und Paläontologie*, (B)1932(1): 4.

*Megalotragus* Van Hoepen, 1932, *Paleontologiese Navorsing van die Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein*, 2(5): 63.

*priscus*, *Bubalis*, Broom, 1909, *Annals of the South African Museum*, 7: 279.

*Rhynotragus* Reck, 1925, *Illustrierte Zeitung*, Leipzig, 164: 451.

*semiticus*, *Rhynotragus*, Reck, 1925, *Illustrierte Zeitung*, Leipzig, 164: 451.