

OPINION 2043 (Case 3113)***Betta* Bleeker, 1850 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes): specific names conserved by the suppression of the generic and specific names *Micracanthus marcheii* Sauvage, 1879**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the specific names of the Southeast Asian 'fighting fishes' that belong to the genus *Betta* Bleeker, 1850 (family OSPHRONEMIDAE) are conserved by the suppression of the unused generic and specific names *Micracanthus marcheii* Sauvage, 1879.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Osteichthyes; Perciformes; OSPHRONEMIDAE; *Betta*; *Micracanthus*; *Betta splendens*; *Betta smaragdina*; *Betta imbellis*; *Micracanthus marcheii*; fighting fishes; Southeast Asia.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the generic and specific names of *Micracanthus marcheii* Sauvage, 1879 are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *Micracanthus* Sauvage, 1879 (gender: masculine), as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *marcheii* Sauvage, 1879, as published in the binomen *Micracanthus marcheii* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3113

An application to conserve the specific names of the Southeast Asian 'fighting fishes' which belong to the genus *Betta* Bleeker, 1850 (family OSPHRONEMIDAE), by the suppression of the unused name *Micracanthus marcheii* Sauvage, 1879, was received from H.H. Tan and Peter K.L. Ng (*Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Republic of Singapore*) on 16 January 1999. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 57: 29–31 (March 2000). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments on this case were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 2002 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 57: 30. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2003 the votes were as follows: 23 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 1 Commissioner (Rosenberg) voted AGAINST, no vote was received from Mahnert, Ng was on leave of absence.

Voting against, Rosenberg commented: '*Micracanthus marcheii* is a nomen dubium. If at some point DNA or other technology allows positive identification of the species, and it proves to be a senior synonym of a known species, the merits of

suppressing the name can be evaluated. Only four publications using the possibly junior synonyms from the 1970s are cited, so the earlier name seems to pose no great threat to stability.

Original references

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

Micracanthus Sauvage, 1879, *Bulletin de la Société Philomathique de Paris*, (7)3: 95.
marchei, *Micracanthus*, Sauvage, 1879, *Bulletin de la Société Philomathique de Paris*, (7)3: 96.