

OPINION 2060 (Case 3217)***Scleritoderma* Schmidt, 1879 and *Setidium* Schmidt, 1879 (Porifera): usage conserved by the designation of *Scleritoderma flabelliforme* Sollas, 1888 as the type species of *Scleritoderma***

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the accustomed usage of the names for two genera of sponges, *Scleritoderma* and *Setidium*, both of Schmidt (1879) (family SCLERITODERMATIDAE), is maintained by the designation of *Scleritoderma flabelliforme* Sollas, 1888 as the type species of *Scleritoderma*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Porifera; Demospongiae; lithistids; SCLERITODERMATIDAE; *Scleritoderma*; *Setidium*; *Scleritoderma paccardi*; *Scleritoderma flabelliforme*; *Setidium obtectum*; sponges.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Scleritoderma* Schmidt, 1879 are hereby set aside and *Scleritoderma flabelliforme* Sollas, 1888 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Scleritoderma* Schmidt, 1879 (gender: neuter), type species by designation in (1) above *Scleritoderma flabelliforme* Sollas, 1888;
 - (b) *Setidium* Schmidt, 1879 (gender: neuter), type species by monotypy *Setidium obtectum* Schmidt, 1879.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *flabelliforme* Sollas, 1888, as published in the binomen *Scleritoderma flabelliformis* (specific name of the type species of *Scleritoderma* Schmidt, 1879);
 - (b) *obtectum* Schmidt, 1879, as published in the binomen *Setidium obtectum* (specific name of the type species of *Setidium* Schmidt, 1879).

History of Case 3217

An application to conserve the usage of the names for two genera of sponges, *Scleritoderma* and *Setidium*, both of Schmidt (1879) (family SCLERITODERMATIDAE), by the designation of *Scleritoderma flabelliforme* Sollas, 1888 as the type species of *Scleritoderma*, was received from Andrzej Pisera (*Instytut Paleobiologii, Polska Akademia Nauk, Warsaw, Poland*) and Claude Lévi (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire de Biologie des Invertébrés Marins et Malacologie, Paris, France*) on 17 September 2001. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 59: 74–76 (June 2002). 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 2003 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 59: 75–76. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2003 the votes were as follows: 18 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 4 Commissioners (Alonso-Zarazaga, Bouchet, Minelli and Štys) voted AGAINST, no vote was received from Eschmeyer. Böhme and Patterson were on leave of absence.

Voting against, Alonso-Zarazaga commented that the best approach for a problem like this is the use of the Principle of Priority. The synonymy of both genera and species, and the provision of a new generic name for *S. flabelliforme* would have been preferable. The use of the name *Scleritoderma* in literature seems to be minimal and the publication of a 'Systema Porifera' not sufficient reason to set aside the Principles of the Code and should be maintained in this case. The genus name *Scleritoderma* is neuter, and the specific epithet *flabelliformis* should have been corrected to its neuter form, *flabelliforme*, throughout the text. The family-group name should have been corrected to SCLERITODERMATIDAE. Likewise, Bouchet commented that the applicants claimed that 'considerable confusion' would result from changing the currently accepted definition of *Scleritoderma* from a genus characterised by the presence of acanthorhabds to a genus that lacks them. However, they had not demonstrated that these consequences go beyond the world of lithistid sponge taxonomists. The case does not justify using the plenary power of the Commission. Also voting against Štys commented that priority should be maintained in this case as it could be interpreted that *Scleritoderma* Schmidt, 1879 was described without originally included species.

Original references

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

- flabelliforme*, *Scleritoderma*, Sollas, 1888, *Report on the Scientific Results of the Voyage of H.M.S. Challenger during the years 1873–76*. Zoology, 25(63): 316.
obtectum, *Setidium*, Schmidt, 1879, *Die Spongien des Meerbusen von Mexico*, Heft 1, p. 30.
Scleritoderma Schmidt, 1879, *Die Spongien des Meerbusen von Mexico*, Heft 1, p. 28.
Setidium Schmidt, 1879, *Die Spongien des Meerbusen von Mexico*, Heft 1, p. 30.