

OPINION 2064 (Case 3181)***Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 (Insecta, Isoptera): specific name given precedence over *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the specific name of *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 is to be given precedence over that of *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms. The junior name has been universally used in the biological, systematic and pest control literature since at least 1949 for an important economic termite pest species that is widely distributed by humans, while the senior specific name, *Calotermes jacobsoni*, has not been used since 1934.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isoptera; *Cryptotermes*; *Cryptotermes dudleyi*; *Cryptotermes jacobsoni*; termites.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, is hereby given precedence over the name *jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913, as published in the binomen *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913, as published in the binomen *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913, as published in the binomen *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

History of Case 3181

An application to conserve the usage of the specific name of *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 by giving it precedence over the senior specific name *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913 was received from Michael S. Engel (*Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) and Kumar Krishna (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y., U.S.A.*) on 14 November 2000. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 59: 90–92 (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: 91. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2003 the votes were as follows: 21 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, no Commissioners voted AGAINST, 1 Commissioner (Bouchet) abstained, no vote was received from Eschmeyer. Böhme and Patterson were on leave of absence.

In abstaining, Bouchet commented that he would have given his full support to conserve a name widely used in the biological and pest control literature. However, the application gives almost no evidence of that. Nearly all the references cited are taxonomic works and revisions and regional catalogues, and so do not provide a convincing demonstration that the name *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 has been used extensively in the pest control literature.

Original references

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

- dudleyi*, *Cryptotermes*, Banks, 1918, *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, 38(17): 660.
- jacobsoni*, *Calotermes* (*Cryptotermes*), Holmgren, 1913, *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskaps-Akademiens Handlingar*, (2)50(2): 48.