

**OPINION 2077 (Case 3208)*****Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 (Insecta, Coleoptera): given precedence over *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the generic name *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 for a widespread and well-known Palaearctic genus of rove beetles (family STAPHYLINIDAE) is conserved by giving it precedence over the senior name *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; *Geodromicus*; *Psephidonus*; *Staphylinus plagiatus*; *Geobius kunzei*; rove beetles; Holarctic; Oriental.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the name *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 is given precedence over the name *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 (gender: masculine), type species *Staphylinus plagiatus* Fabricius, 1798 by designation by Lacordaire (1854) as the type species of the replaced name *Geobius* Heer, 1839, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Geobius kunzei* Heer, 1839, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *plagiatus* Fabricius, 1798, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus plagiatus* (specific name of the type species of *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857);
  - (b) *kunzei* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Geobius kunzei* (specific name of the type species of *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856).

**History of Case 3208**

An application to conserve the generic name *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 for a widespread and well-known Palaearctic genus of rove beetles (family STAPHYLINIDAE) by giving it precedence over the senior name *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 was received from Lee H. Herman (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) on 6 June 2001. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 59: 188–190 (September 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 December 2003 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 59: 189. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2004 the votes were as follows: 19 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 4 Commissioners voted AGAINST, Calder and Ng were on leave of absence.

Voting against, Alonso-Zarazaga commented that since *Geodromicus* is not in prevailing usage priority must stand.

### Original references

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

*Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857, *Fauna austriaca. Die Käfer*, Ed. 2, p. 244.

*Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856, *Die Mysterien der europäischen Insectenwelt . . .*, p. 29.

*plagiatus*, *Staphylinus*, Fabricius, 1798, *Supplementum entomologiae systematicae*, p. 180.

*kunzei*, *Geobius*, Heer, 1839, *Fauna Coleopterorum Helvetica*, 1(2): 193.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Staphylinus plagiatus* Fabricius, 1798 as the type species of the nominal genus *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857:

Lacordaire, J.T. 1854. *Histoire des insectes. Genera des coléoptères ou exposé méthodique et critique de tous les genres proposés jusqu'ici dans cet ordre d'insectes*, vol. 2, p. 136.