

**OPINION 2089 (Case 3203)*****Sauripterus* Hall, 1843 (Osteichthyes, Sarcopterygii): conserved as the correct original spelling**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that *Sauripterus* Hall, 1843 is the correct original spelling for a fossil fish (family RHIZODONTIDAE). Stability was threatened by the unused earlier spelling *Sauritolepis* Hall, 1840.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Sarcopterygii; Rhizodontida; *Sauripterus*; *Sauripterus taylori*; fossil fish; Catskill Formation; Devonian.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that:
  - (a) the generic name *Sauritolepis* Hall, 1840 is suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
  - (b) *Sauripteris* is an incorrect original spelling of *Sauripterus* Hall, 1843.
- (2) The name *Sauripterus* Hall, 1843 (gender: masculine), type species *Sauritolepis taylori* Hall, 1840 by monotypy of the replaced nominal genus *Sauritolepis* Hall, 1840, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *taylori* Hall, 1840, as published in the binomen *Sauritolepis taylori* and as defined by the lectotype designated by Jeffery et al., 2002 (catalogue no. AMNH 3341 in the American Museum of Natural History, New York), (specific name of the type species of *Sauripterus* Hall, 1843) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Sauritolepis* Hall, 1840, as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
  - (b) *Sauripteris* Hall, 1843, as ruled in (1)(b) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *Sauripterus* Hall, 1843.

**History of Case 3203**

An application to conserve *Sauripterus* Hall, 1843 as the correct original spelling for a fossil fish (family RHIZODONTIDAE) was received from J.E. Jeffery (*Instituut voor Evolutionaire en Ecologische Wetenschappen, Universiteit Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands*), M.C. Davis and N.H. Shubin (*University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, U.S.A.*) and E.B. Daeschler (*Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.A.*) on 3 May 2001. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 59: 198–202 (September 2002). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

The author of *Sauritolepis taylori* is Hall (1840) not Hall (1843) as cited in paras. 6 and 7 of the application.

**Decision of the Commission**

On 1 December 2003 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 59: 200. 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 the spelling *Sauripterus* is not in common usage and that *Sauripteris* should be maintained and *Sauritolepis* Hall, 1840 not used. Also voting against, Štys commented that important modern works (quoted in para. 5 of the application) use the correct original spelling, *Sauripteris* Hall, 1843. So, usage of the unjustified emendation *Sauripterus* Woodward, 1891 is by no means universal, and it should not be deemed to be a justified emendation under Article 33.2.3.1.

### Original references

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

*Sauripteris* Hall, 1843, *Natural History of New York; Geology of New-York, part 4, comprising the Survey of the Fourth Geological District*, pp. 281–282.

*Sauripterus* Hall, 1843, *Natural History of New York; Geology of New-York, part 4, comprising the Survey of the Fourth Geological District*, pp. 281–282.

*Sauritolepis* Hall, 1840, *Fourth Annual Report of the Survey of the Fourth Geological District. Assembly Document, Albany Institute*, 50: 453.

*taylori*, *Sauritolepis*, Hall, 1840, *Fourth Annual Report of the Survey of the Fourth Geological District. Assembly Document, Albany Institute*, 50: 453.

The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotype of *Sauritolepis taylori* Hall, 1840:

Jeffery, J.E., Davis, M.C., Shubin, N.H. & Daeschler, E.B. 2002. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 59: 199.