

**OPINION 2119 (Case 3277)*****Chitra chitra* Nutaphand, 1986 (Reptilia, Testudines): specific name given precedence over *Chitra selenkae* Jaekel, 1911**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the specific name of *Chitra chitra* Nutaphand, 1986 for the Narrow-headed Softshell turtle (Testudines; family TRIONYCHIDAE) found in Thailand, Malaysia and on the islands of Sumatra and Java, Indonesia, is conserved by giving it precedence over the palaeontological name *Chitra selenkae* Jaekel, 1911, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Testudines; TRIONYCHIDAE; *Chitra chitra*; *Chitra selenkae*; Narrow-headed Softshell turtles; Thailand; Malaysia; Indonesia.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the name *chitra* Nutaphand, 1986, as published in the binomen *Chitra chitra*, is given precedence over the name *selenkae* Jaekel, 1911, as published in the binomen *Chitra selenkae*, 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) *chitra* Nutaphand, 1986, as published in the binomen *Chitra chitra*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *selenkae* Jaekel, 1911, as published in the binomen *Chitra selenkae*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *selenkae* Jaekel, 1911, as published in the binomen *Chitra selenkae*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *chitra* Nutaphand, 1986, as published in the binomen *Chitra chitra*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

**History of Case 3277**

An application to conserve the widely used name *Chitra chitra* Nutaphand, 1986 for the Narrow-headed Softshell turtle (Testudines; family TRIONYCHIDAE) by giving it precedence over the name *Chitra selenkae* Jaekel, 1911, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms, was received from William P. McCord (*East Fishkill Animal Hospital, 455 Rte 82, New York, N.Y. 12533, U.S.A.*) and Peter C.H. Pritchard (*Chelonian Research Institute, 401 South Central Avenue, Oviedo, Florida 32765, U.S.A.*) on 25 January 2003. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 60: 208–210 (September 2003). 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 2004 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 60: 209. At the close of the voting period on 1 March

2005 the votes were as follows: 18 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 3 Commissioners voted AGAINST, Evenhuis, Kerzhner and Ng were on leave of absence; no vote was received from Böhme.

### Original references

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

*chitra*, *Chitra*, Nutaphand, 1986, *Thai Zoological Magazine*, 1(4): 66.

*selenkae*, *Chitra*, Jaekel, 1911, *Die Pithecanthropus-Schichten auf Java. Geologische und Paläontologische Ergebnisse der Trinil-Expedition (1907 und 1908)*, p. 80.