

**OPINION 2124 (Case 3244)****TERMOPSISIDAE Holmgren, 1911, *Termopsis* Heer, 1849 and *Miotermes* Rosen, 1913 (Insecta, Isoptera): usage conserved by the designation of *Termopsis breinii* Heer, 1849 as the type species of *Termopsis* and the family-group name TERMOPSISIDAE given precedence over STOLOTERMITINAE Holmgren, 1910**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the current usage of the generic names *Termopsis* Heer, 1849 and *Miotermes* Rosen, 1913 and the family name TERMOPSISIDAE Holmgren, 1911 are conserved for well-known groups of termites by designating *Termopsis breinii* Heer, 1849 as the type species of *Termopsis*. Both nominal genera had the same type species, *Termopsis procera* Heer, 1849. The family-group name TERMOPSISIDAE is given precedence over STOLOTERMITINAE Holmgren, 1910.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isoptera; TERMOPSISIDAE; STOLOTERMITINAE; *Termopsis*; *Miotermes*; *Stolotermes*; *Termopsis breinii*; *Miotermes procerus*; *Stolotermes brunneicornis*; termites.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power:
  - (a) the family-group name TERMOPSISIDAE Holmgren, 1911 and other family-group names based on *Termopsis* Heer, 1849 are hereby given precedence over STOLOTERMITINAE Holmgren, 1910 and other family-group names based on *Stolotermes* Hagen, 1858 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
  - (b) all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Termopsis* Heer, 1849 are hereby set aside and *Termopsis breinii* Heer, 1849 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Termopsis* Heer, 1849 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1)(b) above *Termopsis breinii* Heer, 1849;
  - (b) *Miotermes* Rosen, 1913 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Termopsis procera* Heer, 1849;
  - (c) *Stolotermes* Hagen, 1858 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Hodotermes (Stolotermes) brunneicornis* Hagen, 1858.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *breinii* Heer, 1849, as published in the binomen *Termopsis breinii* (specific name of the type species of *Termopsis* Heer, 1849);
  - (b) *procera* Heer, 1849, as published in the binomen *Termopsis procera* (specific name of the type species of *Miotermes* Rosen, 1913);
  - (c) *brunneicornis* Hagen, 1858, as published in the binomen *Hodotermes brunneicornis* (specific name of the type species of *Stolotermes* Hagen, 1858).

- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
- (a) TERMOPSISIDAE Holmgren, 1911 (type genus *Termopsis* Heer, 1849), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Termopsis* are to be given precedence over STOLOTERMITINAE Holmgren, 1910 and other family-group names based on *Stolotermes* Hagen, 1858 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
  - (b) STOLOTERMITINAE Holmgren, 1910 (type genus *Stolotermes* Hagen, 1858), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Stolotermes* are not to be given priority over TERMOPSISIDAE Holmgren, 1911 and other family-group names based on *Termopsis* Heer, 1849 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.

### History of Case 3244

An application to conserve the current usage of the generic names *Termopsis* Heer, 1849 and *Miotermes* Rosen, 1913 and the family name TERMOPSISIDAE Holmgren, 1911 for well-known groups of termites by designating *Termopsis breinii* Heer, 1849 as the type species of *Termopsis* was received from Michael S. Engel (*Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7523, U.S.A.*) and Kumar Krishna and Christopher Boyko (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y. 10024-5192, U.S.A.*) on 23 April 2002. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 60: 119–123 (June 2003). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. A comment correcting the gender of the name *Termopsis* and the specific name of the type species of *Miotermes* was published in BZN 60: 303. The authors replied in agreement and additionally noted the priority of the name STOLOTERMITINAE Holmgren, 1910 over TERMOPSISIDAE Holmgren, 1911; amended proposals were published in BZN 61: 169–170.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2005 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the amended proposals published in BZN 61: 169–170. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2005 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 18: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Calder, Fortey, Halliday, Kerzhner (in part), Lamas, Macpherson, Mahnert, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg and Štys.

Negative votes — 1: van Tol.

Kerzhner abstained from voting on (1)(a) and (4).

No votes were received from Böhme, Ng and Song.

Voting against, van Tol commented that 'the authors did not provide a sound basis for the reversal of priority of family-group names based on *Termopsis* and *Stolotermes*, whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon. The family-group name STOLOTERMITINAE was used, for instance, by Coaton & Sheasby, 1978. *Cimbebasia Series A, Natuurwetenskappe*, 3: 207–213'. Kerzhner split his vote: voting for 'except (1)(a) and respective statements in (4) and noted that the problem is covered by Article 35.5 of the Code; no use of plenary powers was needed'.

**Original references**

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

- bremii*, *Termopsis*, Heer, 1849, *Die Insektenfauna der Tertiärgebilde von Oeningen und von Radoboj in Croatien. Zweiter Theil: Heuschrecken, Florsfliegen, Aderflügler, Schmetterlinge und Fliegen*, p. 31.
- brunneicornis*, *Hodotermes*, Hagen, 1858, *Limaea Entomologica*, **12**: 105.
- Miotermes* Rosen, 1913, *Transactions of the Second International Congress of Entomology, Oxford 1912*, **2**: 325.
- procera*, *Termopsis*, Heer, 1849, *Die Insektenfauna der Tertiärgebilde von Oeningen und von Radoboj in Croatien. Zweiter Theil: Heuschrecken, Florsfliegen, Aderflügler, Schmetterlinge und Fliegen*, p. 23.
- Stolotermes* Hagen, 1858, *Limaea Entomologica*, **12**: 105.
- STOLOTERMITINAE Holmgren, 1910, *Zoologischer Anzeiger*, **35**: 285.
- TERMOPSIDAE Holmgren, 1911, *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskaps-Akademiens Handlingar*, **46**(6): 35.
- Termopsis* Heer, 1849, *Die Insektenfauna der Tertiärgebilde von Oeningen und von Radoboj in Croatien. Zweiter Theil: Heuschrecken, Florsfliegen, Aderflügler, Schmetterlinge und Fliegen*, p. 23.