

**OPINION 2134 (Case 3316)*****Hindia* Duncan, 1879 (Porifera): conserved**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the name *Hindia* Duncan, 1879 is conserved for a fossil demosponge genus ranging from the Ordovician to the Devonian by the suppression of two senior synonyms, the little used *Sphaerolites* Hinde, 1875 and *Microspongia* Miller & Dyer, 1878 of doubtful identity.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Porifera; HINDIIDAE; *Hindia*; *Sphaerolites*; *Microspongia*; fossil sponges; Ordovician; Silurian; Devonian.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is ruled that the following generic names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
  - (a) *Microspongia* Miller & Dyer, 1878;
  - (b) *Sphaerolites* Hinde, 1875.
- (2) The name *Hindia* Duncan, 1879 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Hindia sphaeroidalis* Duncan, 1879 is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *sphaeroidalis* Duncan, 1879, as published in the binomen *Hindia sphaeroidalis* (specific name of the type species of *Hindia* Duncan, 1879), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name HINDIIDAE Rauff, 1894, type genus *Hindia* Duncan, 1879, is hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.
- (5) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Microspongia* Miller & Dyer, 1878 (as suppressed in (1)(a) above);
  - (b) *Sphaerolites* Hinde, 1875 (as suppressed in (1)(b) above).
- (6) The name MICROSPONGIIDAE Howell, 1940 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology (invalid because the name of the type genus is suppressed in (1)(a) above).

**History of Case 3316**

An application to conserve the name *Hindia* Duncan, 1879 for a fossil demosponge genus by the suppression of two senior synonyms, *Sphaerolites* Hinde, 1875 and *Microspongia* Miller & Dyer, 1878, was received from J. Keith Rigby (*Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, U.S.A.*) on 27 February 2004. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 61: 80–82 (June 2004). 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 2005 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 61: 81. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2005 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 16: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bock, Brothers, Calder, Fortey, Halliday, Kerzhner, Lamas, Macpherson, Mahnert, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Papp, Rosenberg and Song.

Negative votes – 4: Bouchet, Patterson, Štys and van Tol.

No vote was received from Ng.

Voting against, Bouchet commented: 'the name *Hindia* was treated as a junior synonym of *Microspongia* in no less than the *Treatise* (de Laubenfels, 1955), and it is hard to understand why the nomenclatural consequence of this taxonomic synonymy is not accepted by the applicant. After the *Treatise* (de Laubenfels, 1955), the senior synonym was used as the valid name by one author (Zhuravleva, 1962) and the junior synonym was used as the valid name by two authors (Bayer, 1967 and the applicant: Rigby & Chatterton, 1989, 1999 and Rigby & Webby, 1988). Such limited usage does not warrant the use of the plenary power'.

### Original references

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

*Hindia* Duncan, 1879, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (5)4: 91.

HINDIIDAE Rauff, 1894, *Sitzungsberichte der Niederrheinischen Gesellschaft für Natur und Heilkunde*, vol. 43, p. 327.

*Microspongia* Miller & Dyer, 1878, *Cincinnati Society of Natural History Journal*, 1: 37.

MICROSPONGIIDAE Howell, 1940, *Bulletin of the Wagner Free Institute of Sciences*, 15: 45.

*sphaeroidalis*, *Hindia*, Duncan, 1879, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (5)4: 91.

*Sphaerolites* Hinde, 1875, *Abstracts of the Proceedings of the Geological Society of London*, 305: 8.