

**OPINION 2168 (Case 3292)*****Nasutitermes* Dudley, 1890, *Microcerotermes* Silvestri, 1901 and NASUTITERMITINAE Hare, 1937 (Insecta, Isoptera): application to conserve names not approved**

**Abstract.** An application to conserve the generic names *Nasutitermes* Dudley, 1890 (and the family-group name based upon it, NASUTITERMITINAE Hare, 1937) and *Microcerotermes* Silvestri, 1901 for two well-known groups of ecologically and agriculturally important termites has not been approved. The Commission did not accept that the names *Nasutitermes*, the largest genus of termites in the world, and *Microcerotermes* were threatened by the little-known but possibly synonymous name *Eutermes* Heer, 1849, and considered that the authors of the application should, without recourse to the Commission, resolve the perceived problem by designating an appropriate species as type species of *Nasutitermes*. No names are placed on the Official Lists or Indexes.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isoptera; NASUTITERMITINAE; *Nasutitermes*; *Microcerotermes*; *Eutermes*; termites.

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**Ruling**

- (1) It is hereby ruled that the application for the proposed conservation of *Nasutitermes* Dudley, 1890, *Microcerotermes* Silvestri, 1901 and NASUTITERMITINAE Hare, 1937 is not approved. No names are placed on the Official Lists or Indexes.

**History of Case 3292**

An application to conserve the generic names *Nasutitermes* Dudley, 1890, *Microcerotermes* Silvestri, 1901 and NASUTITERMITINAE Hare, 1937 for two well-known groups of ecologically and agriculturally important termites was received from Michael S. Engel (*Division of Entomology, Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) and Kumar Krishna (*Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.*) on 7 July 2003. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 62: 8–13 (March 2005). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. A comment proposing an alternative solution to the perceived problem without recourse to the Commission was published in BZN 62: 149–150, to which the authors of the application replied in BZN 62: 240. An amplification of the suggested alternative solution was received and circulated to Commissioners.

**Decision of the Commission**

On 1 September 2006 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 62: 11. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2006 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 6: Bouchet (parts 1b, 2a, 3a), Krell, Macpherson, Mahnert, Papp and Patterson.

Negative votes – 23: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bock, Bogutskaya, Bouchet (parts 1a, 5, 6), Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kerzhner, Kottelat, Kullander, Lamas, Lim, Mawatari, Minelli, Ng, Pape, Pyle, Rosenberg, Song, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Commissioners voting against the proposal agreed that action by the Commission was unnecessary and that the authors of the application should resolve the perceived problem by designation of a suitable type species for the nominal genus *Nasutitermes* Dudley, 1890.