

OPINION 2188 (Case 3353)***Obovaria* Rafinesque, 1819 (Mollusca, Bivalvia): usage conserved by designation of *Unio retusa* Lamarck, 1819 as the type species**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the usage of the name *Obovaria* Rafinesque, 1819 is conserved for a freshwater bivalve from the eastern United States by designation of *Unio retusa* Lamarck, 1819 as the type species and that the name *Obovaria obovalis* Rafinesque, 1820 is a nomen oblitum.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Bivalvia; UNIONIDAE; *Obovaria*; *Obovaria obovalis*; *Obovaria retusa*; *Fusconaia ebena*; eastern United States; freshwater mussel.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Obovaria* Rafinesque, 1819 are set aside and *Unio retusa* Lamarck, 1819 is designated as the type species of *Obovaria* Rafinesque, 1819.
- (2) The name *obovalis* Rafinesque, 1820, as published in the binomen *Obovaria obovalis*, is hereby ruled to be a nomen oblitum.
- (3) The name *Obovaria* Rafinesque, 1819 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Unio retusa* Lamarck, 1819, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *retusa* Lamarck, 1819, as published in the binomen *Unio retusa* (specific name of the type species of *Obovaria* Rafinesque, 1819, as ruled in (1) above);
 - (b) *ebenus* Lea, 1831, as published in the binomen *Unio ebenus* (currently *Fusconaia ebena*).
- (5) The name *obovalis* Rafinesque, 1820, as published in the binomen *Obovaria obovalis* (ruled in (2) above to be a nomen oblitum), is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3353

An application to conserve the usage of the widely used name *Obovaria* Rafinesque, 1819 (freshwater bivalve from the eastern United States) by the designation of *Unio retusa* Lamarck, 1819 as the type species and to suppress the name *obovalis*, as published in the binomen *Obovaria obovalis* Rafinesque, 1820, was received from Arthur E. Bogan (*North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.*), James D. Williams (*Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A.*) and Jeffrey T. Garner (*Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Florence, Alabama, U.S.A.*) on 10 May 2005. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **63**: 226–230 (December 2006). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. A supportive comment was published in BZN **64**(2): 119–120.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2007 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 63: 228. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2007 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 22: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kerzhner, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Lim, Mahnert, Mawatari, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative vote – none.

Minelli, Ng and Pyle were on leave of absence.

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:

ebenus, *Unio*, Lea, 1831, *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, New Series*, **4**: 84.
obovalis, *Obovaria*, Rafinesque, 1820, *Annales Générales des Sciences Physiques, à Bruxelles*, **5**(5): 311.

Obovaria Rafinesque, 1819, *Journal de Physique, de Chimie, d'Histoire Naturelle et des Arts*, **88**: 426.

retusa, *Unio*, Lamarck, 1819, *Histoire naturelle des animaux sans vertèbres*, vol. 6, part 1, p. 72.