

OPINION 2199 (Case 3369)***Bothynus* Hope, 1837 (Insecta, Coleoptera, SCARABAEIDAE): usage conserved by designation of *Scarabaeus ascanius* Kirby, 1819 as the type species**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the current usage of the generic name *Bothynus* Hope, 1837 for well-known scarab beetles of the family SCARABAEIDAE (subfamily DYNASTINAE) is conserved by the designation of *Scarabaeus ascanius* Kirby, 1819 as the type species. The original type species of *Bothynus* was *Geotrupes cuniculus* Fabricius, 1801, but was based on a misidentification. The designation of *S. ascanius* Kirby, 1819 as the type species was proposed by Lacordaire in 1856, but, although this was adopted by most taxonomists, this was not valid under the Code.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Coleoptera; SCARABAEIDAE; DYNASTINAE; PENTODONTINI; *Bothynus*; *Scarabaeus ascanius*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Bothynus* Hope, 1837 before the designation by Lacordaire (1856) of *Scarabaeus ascanius* Kirby, 1819, are set aside.
- (2) The name *Bothynus* Hope, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Lacordaire (1856) *Scarabaeus ascanius* Kirby, 1819, as ruled in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *ascanius* Kirby, 1819, as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus ascanius* (specific name of the type species of *Bothynus* Hope, 1837), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3369

An application for the conservation of usage of the name *Bothynus* Hope, 1837 and the validation of the designation by Lacordaire (1856) of *Scarabaeus ascanius* Kirby, 1819 as the type species, was received from Brett C. Ratcliffe (*University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, NE, U.S.A.*) and Andrew B.T. Smith (*Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada*) on 9 November 2005. This required setting aside the type species *Geotrupes cuniculus* Fabricius, 1801, designated by Hope, 1837, and validation of the designation by Lacordaire (1856) of *Scarabaeus ascanius* Kirby, 1819 as the type species. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **64**: 29–31 (March 2007). 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 2007 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **64**: 30. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2008 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 20: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Mawatari, Ng, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative votes – none.

No vote was received from Lim. Kerzhner, Minelli and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Original references

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

Bothynus Hope, 1837, *The Coleopterists' Manual, Containing the Lamellicorn Insects of Linneus and Fabricius*, p. 95.

ascanius, *Scarabaeus*, Kirby, 1819, *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London*, **12**: 399.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Scarabaeus ascanius* Kirby, 1819 as the type species of the genus *Bothynus* Hope, 1837:

Lacordaire, J.T. 1856. *Histoire Naturelle des Insectes. Genera de Coléoptères ou Exposé Methodique et Critique de Tous les Genres proposes jusqu'ici dans cet Ordre d'Insectes*, vol. 3, p. 413.