

**OPINION 2200 (Case 3374)*****Onthophagus sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 (Insecta, Coleoptera, SCARABAEIDAE): specific name conserved**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the specific name *Onthophagus sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 for a dung beetle found throughout Vietnam and China is conserved by suppressing its senior primary homonym *Onthophagus sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; SCARABAEIDAE; *Onthophagus*; *Onthophagus sycophanta*; dung beetles; China; Vietnam.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the specific name *sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus sycophanta*, and all uses of the name before Fairmaire (1887) are suppressed for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus sycophanta* is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus sycophanta* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

**History of Case 3374**

An application to conserve the specific name *Onthophagus sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 for a dung beetle found throughout Vietnam and China was received from Frank-Thorsten Krell (*Denver Museum of Nature & Science, CO, U.S.A.*) on 27 February 2006. This requested suppressing the name *Onthophagus sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842, which had not been used as a valid name after its introduction even by the author himself. The name *O. sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 has been in regular use. After correspondence the case was published in **BZN 64**: 32–34 (March 2007). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

**Decision of the Commission**

On 1 December 2007 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in **BZN 64**: 33. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2008 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 18: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kottelat, Krell, Lamas, Mawatari, Ng, Pape, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative votes – 2: Kullander and Papp.

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

Voting against, Kullander commented that the Principle of Priority should be maintained in this case.

### **Original references**

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*sycophanta*, *Onthophagus*, Fairmaire, 1887, *Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique*, **31**: 100.

*sycophanta*, *Onthophagus*, Mulsant, 1842, *Histoire Naturelle des Coléoptères de France. Lamellicornes*, p. 106.