

**OPINION 2210** (Case 3365)***Atractus* Wagler, 1828 and *Atractus trilineatus* Wagler, 1828  
(Reptilia, Serpentes): conserved**

**Abstract.** The Commission has conserved the generic name *Atractus* Wagler, 1828 for a group of common Neotropical snakes by suppressing its senior objective synonym *Brachyura* Kuhl & van Hasselt, 1822. In addition, the name *Atractus trilineatus* Wagler, 1828, the specific name of the type species of *Atractus*, has been given precedence over its senior objective synonym *Brachyorrhos kuhli* Schlegel, 1826.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Serpentes; COLUBRIDAE; *Atractus*; *Brachyura*; *Atractus trilineatus*; *Brachyorrhos kuhli*; Neotropical snakes.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the following names are suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
  - (a) *Brachyura* Kuhl & van Hasselt, 1822;
  - (b) *kuhli* Schlegel, 1826, as published in the binomen *Brachyorrhos kuhli* (senior objective synonym of *Atractus trilineatus*).
- (2) The name *Atractus* Wagler, 1828 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *A. trilineatus* Wagler, 1828, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *trilineatus* Wagler, 1828, as published in the binomen *Atractus trilineatus* is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *Brachyura* Kuhl & van Hasselt, 1822, as suppressed in (1)(a) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.
- (5) The name *kuhli* Schlegel, 1826, as published in the binomen *Brachyorrhos kuhli* (senior objective synonym of *Atractus trilineatus*) and as suppressed in (1)(b) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

**History of Case 3365**

An application to conserve the usage of the generic name *Atractus* Wagler, 1828 was received from Marinus S. Hoogmoed (*Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, Belem, PA, Brazil*) and Jay M. Savage (*San Diego State University, CA, U.S.A.*) on 25 October 2005. After correspondence the case was published in *BZN* **64**(1): 60–63 (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 March 2008 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in *BZN* **64**: 62. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2008 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 12: Bogutskaya, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Krell, Mawatari, Papp, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Bouchet voted for proposals (2) and (4).

Negative votes – 4: Kottelat, Kullander, Lamas and Pape.

Bouchet voted against proposals (1), (3) and (5).

No votes were received from Lim. Alonso-Zarazaga, Minelli, Ng, Patterson and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Bouchet (voting split) commented that the application documents that *Atractus* Wagler, 1828 qualifies as a nomen protectum, and *Brachyura* Kuhl & van Hasselt, 1822 qualifies as a nomen oblitum. His split vote for (2) and (4) reflects this obligatory reversal of precedence under Article 23.9. Conversely, he voted against the reversal of precedence for the species level names because their usage does not satisfy Article 23.9 and priority should apply. Similarly, voting against the proposals, both Kullander and Lamas commented that *Atractus* is already to be conserved as a nomen protectum under 23.9.2, thus does not need Commission intervention. Kullander further said that with regard to preference for *trilineatus* over *kuhli*, he preferred to stay with priority because it has not been demonstrated that this would cause major havoc for tropical snake systematics.

Both Lamas (voting against the proposals) and Rosenberg (voting for the proposals) noted that that *Atractus* and *Brachyura* are subjective, not objective, synonyms (the type species of each is not based on the same type specimen(s), therefore *Atractus bilineatus* is also not an objective synonym of *Coluber brachyurus*, only a junior subjective synonym).

Brothers, Krell, Pape and Papp (all voting for the proposals) pointed out that the author of *Brachyorrhos kuhli* was Schlegel, not Boie in Schlegel.

### Original references

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

*Atractus* Wagler, 1828, *Isis von Oken*, **21**(7): column 741 on p. 60.

*Brachyura* Kuhl & van Hasselt, 1822, *Algemeene Konst- en Letterbode*, **1**(7): 101.

*kuhli*, *Brachyorrhos*, Schlegel, 1826, *Bulletin des Sciences Naturelles et de Géologie* (Paris), **9**(2): 236.

*trilineatus*, *Atractus*, Wagler, 1828, *Isis von Oken*, **21**(7): column 742.