

OPINION 2220 (Case 3392)***Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Symphorobius elegans*) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*) (Insecta, Neuroptera): specific names conserved**

Abstract. The specific names *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Symphorobius elegans*), for a European brown lacewing (HEMEROBIIDAE) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*), for a Neotropical green lacewing (CHRYSOPIDAE) are hereby conserved by ruling that *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836. Both names are in current use but are placed in different families and unlikely to ever be treated as congeneric in the future.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; CHRYSOPIDAE; HEMEROBIIDAE; *Vieira elegans*; *Symphorobius elegans*; green lacewings; brown lacewings; Costa Rica; Suriname; Brazil; Europe.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the name *elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*;
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*;
 - (b) *elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, with the endorsement that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, as ruled in (1) above.

History of Case 3392

An application to conserve the specific names *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Symphorobius elegans*) (HEMEROBIIDAE) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*) (CHRYSOPIDAE) was received from J.D. Oswald (Texas A&M University, TX, U.S.A.) on 14 June 2006. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **64**: 174–177. The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. One supportive comment was published in BZN **65**: 49–50.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 June 2008 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **64**: 175. At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2008 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 12: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Halliday, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Lim, Pape, Papp and Zhang.

Negative votes – 4: Grygier, Kottelat, Rosenberg and van Tol.
Fautin abstained.

No vote was received from Ng. Minelli, Patterson, Pyle and Štys were on leave of absence.

Voting AGAINST, Grygier commented that the junior name appears to hold no special importance. Also voting AGAINST, Kottelat said that he failed to see how the change of the name of a species said to be rare and cited six times in the last 50 years can threaten stability of nomenclature. Kullander, voting FOR, said that this was a relevant case for the Commission and that he particularly appreciates applications that do more than attempt to preserve favourite junior synonyms. Rosenberg, voting AGAINST, commented that *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 does not have enough usage to warrant conservation.

Original references

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

elegans, *Hemerobius*, Stephens, 1836, *Illustrations of British entomology; or, a synopsis of indigenous insects: containing their generic and specific distinctions; with an account of their metamorphoses, times of appearance, localities, food, economy . . . Mandibulata*, vol. 6, p. 113.

elegans, *Hemerobius*, Guérin-Méneville, 1844, *Iconographie du règne animal de G. Cuvier, ou représentation d'après nature de l'une des espèces les plus remarquables, et souvent non encore figurées, de chaque genre d'animaux. Insectes*, p. 388.