

**OPINION 2233 (Case 3417)*****Malmgrenia* McIntosh, 1874 (Annelida, Polychaeta, POLYNOIDAE):  
usage conserved**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the usage of the generic name *Malmgrenia* McIntosh, 1874 (a polynoid worm genus from the northern North Atlantic) is conserved by designation of *Malmgrenia andreapolis* McIntosh, 1874 as the type species of this genus.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Polychaeta; POLYNOIDAE; *Malmgrenia*; *Malmgrenia whiteavesii*; *Malmgrenia andreapolis*; scale worm; northern North Atlantic.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Malmgrenia* McIntosh, 1874 are set aside and *Malmgrenia andreapolis* McIntosh, 1874 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The name *Malmgrenia* McIntosh, 1874 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Malmgrenia andreapolis* McIntosh, 1874 is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *andreapolis* McIntosh, 1874, as published in the binomen *Malmgrenia andreapolis* (specific name of the type species of *Malmgrenia* McIntosh, 1874), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

**History of Case 3417**

An application to conserve the current usage of the widely used name *Malmgrenia* McIntosh, 1874 (a polynoid worm genus from the northern North Atlantic) by designation of *Malmgrenia andreapolis* McIntosh, 1874 as the type species of *Malmgrenia* was received from A.I. Muir (*Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) and S.J. Chambers (*The National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, U.K.*) on 23 February 2007. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 65: 12–16 (March 2008). 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 2009 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 65: 14. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2009 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 17: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Brothers, Fautin, Halliday, Kottelat, Krell, Lamas, Lim, Minelli, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative votes – 3: Grygier, Kullander and Ng.

Bouchet abstained. Pyle was on leave of absence.

Štys, voting FOR, said that the case concerns one genus name, *Malmgrenia* McIntosh 1874, typified by monotypy by *Malmgrenia whiteavesii* McIntosh, 1874

(nomen dubium) from Canada (syntypes lack diagnostic characters and are apparently lost). Two British species are also included in the genus, i.e. *M. andreapolis* McIntosh, 1874 and *M. castanea* McIntosh, 1876 (syntypes preserved in the NHM, London). The authors of the application propose *M. andreapolis* as a type species, and a lectotype of this species should be selected from syntypes at this opportunity or the reason why this is not done should be provided.

Grygier, voting AGAINST, stated that the best solution for this problem would be the eventual designation of a neotype from the Gulf of St. Lawrence for *M. whiteavesii*. The authors should have checked whether any specimens satisfactory for this purpose exist in Canadian collections. Voting AGAINST, Kullander also said that this case could be resolved with an appropriate neotype for *M. whiteavesii*. Also voting AGAINST, Ng said that it does make sense to change the type species and keep the status quo. However, here he voted against only because he was concerned that in lieu of a revision of the genera and species considered, one may need in the future to perhaps establish a new genus for the Canadian species. He would have thus preferred for the applicants to ask the Commission to declare the type material unusable and to be replaced by a neotype – from Canada if possible. He said he did not sense that it was known whether the Canadian and English species are conspecific. If this species is common in England, he thought it should also be common off Canada. This would fix the name and the genus once and for all. The name by McIntosh for the Canadian species is available as rules stand; it is just that the type is useless.

Bouchet, who ABSTAINED, said that the application lacked information that would have been necessary for an informed vote. He was surprised that polychaete specialists appear to have consistently treated *Malmgrenia* as a valid genus, and its originally only included species, *M. whiteavesii*, as a nomen dubium, or ‘virtually a nomen nudum’. Bouchet asked if *M. whiteavesii* is unrecognisable, how can *Malmgrenia* be recognisable? He would have liked to know how many biological species currently classified in *Malmgrenia* are known to occur in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the type locality of *M. whiteavesii*. Obviously there can not be too many, as the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) lists just six valid species of *Malmgrenia* worldwide (Fauchald & Barnich, 2009). An obvious technical solution to stabilising *Malmgrenia* would have been to designate a neotype of *M. whiteavesii* from the type locality. Bouchet asked why this solution was not discussed.

### Additional references

Fauchald, K. & Barnich, R. 2009. *Malmgrenia* McIntosh, 1874. In Fauchald, K. (Ed.), *World Polychaeta database* (Accessed through the World Register of Marine Species at <http://marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=147006> on 2009-05-31).

### Original references

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

*andreapolis*, McIntosh, 1874, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (4)14: 195.  
*Malmgrenia* McIntosh, 1874, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (4)13: 263.