

OPINION 2237 (Case 3422)***Helops* Fabricius, 1775 (Insecta, Coleoptera, TENEBRIONIDAE): usage conserved by designation of *Tenebrio caeruleus* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the current usage of the widely used name *Helops* Fabricius, 1775 (tenebrionid beetle from the Western Palaearctic, Nearctic and Neotropical Regions) by designation of *Tenebrio caeruleus* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species. All type fixations for the nominal genus *Helops* Fabricius, 1775 before that of *Tenebrio caeruleus* Linnaeus, 1758 by Hope (1840) have been set aside.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; TENEBRIONIDAE; HELOPINI; HELOPINA; CYLINDRINOTINA; *Helops*; *Helops lanipes*; *Tenebrio caeruleus*; darkling beetles; Western Palaearctic; Nearctic and Neotropical Regions.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that all type fixations for the nominal genus *Helops* Fabricius, 1775 before that of *Tenebrio caeruleus* Linnaeus, 1758 by Hope (1840) are set aside.
- (2) The name *Helops* Fabricius, 1775 (gender: masculine), type species *Tenebrio caeruleus* Linnaeus, 1758 by the fixation of Hope (1840) as ruled in (1) above is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *caeruleus* Linnaeus, 1758 as published in the binomen *Tenebrio caeruleus* (specific name of the type species of *Helops* Fabricius, 1775) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3422

An application to conserve the current usage of the widely used name *Helops* Fabricius, 1775 (tenebrionid beetle from the Western Palaearctic, Nearctic and Neotropical Regions) by designation of *Tenebrio caeruleus* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species was received from Maxim Nabozhenko (*Southern Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Rostov-on-Don, Russia*), Patrice Bouchard (*Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*) and Ivan Löbl (*Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland*) on 28 May 2007. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 65: 27–30 (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: 28. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2009 the votes were as follows:

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

Negative votes – 3: Bogutskaya, Kullander and Patterson.

Pyle was on leave of absence.

Voting FOR the proposals, Grygier said he would have liked to know the number of species in the genera and subtribes whose names were at stake. Ng also voted FOR, explaining that his personal preference is to keep to the original type species designation but he sympathised with the messiness described in this Case so he supported the proposals, as he felt this would cause the least confusion. He added that the way this mistake had been perpetuated since Latreille was most unfortunate.

Kullander voted AGAINST the proposals, stating that Iablokoff-Khnzorian (1964) obviously demonstrated which was the correct type species and that entomologists had had 45 years to adapt.

Original references

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

caeruleus, *Tenebrio*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 418.

Helops Fabricius, 1775, *Systema entomologiae, sistens insectorum classes, ordines, genera, species, adiectis synonymis, locis, descriptionibus, observationibus*. Xxxii, p. 257.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Tenebrio caeruleus* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of the nominal genus *Helops* Fabricius, 1775:

Hope, F.W. 1840. *The coleopterist's manual, part the third, containing various families, genera, and species, of beetles, recorded by Linnaeus and Fabricius. Also, descriptions of newly discovered and unpublished insects*. [5], p. 133.