

OPINION 2249 (Case 3471)***Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 (Crustacea, Copepoda, Harpacticoida): name conserved by precedence over *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 and *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the generic name *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 for a group of marine harpacticoid copepods (family LAOPHONTIDAE) by giving it precedence over the unused senior names *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 and *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 whenever these names are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Copepoda; Harpacticoida; LAOPHONTIDAE; *Heterolaophonte*; *Mesolaophonte*; *Monolaophonte*; *Heterolaophonte stroemii*; harpacticoid copepod; cosmopolitan.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the generic name *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 is hereby given precedence over the names *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 and *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941, whenever it and either of the other two are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The entry on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology for *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation, *Cyclops stroemii* Baird, 1837, is hereby emended to record that it is to be given precedence over the names *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 and *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941, whenever it and either of the other two are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Laophonte littoralis* Scott & Scott, 1893, with the endorsement that it is not to be given precedence over the name *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Laophonte curvata* Douwe, 1929, with the endorsement that it is not to be given precedence over the name *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *littoralis* Scott & Scott, 1893, as published in the binomen *Laophonte littoralis* (specific name of the type species of *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941);
 - (b) *curvata* Douwe, 1929, as published in the binomen *Laophonte curvata* (specific name of the type species of *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941).

History of Case 3471

An application to conserve the generic name *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 for a group of marine harpacticoid copepods (family LAOPHONTIDAE) by giving it precedence over

the unused senior names *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 and *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941 was received from Rony Huys (*Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) on 4 June 2008. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **65**: 282–287 (December 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 December 2009 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **65**: 284–285. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2010 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 20: Ballerio, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Krell, Lamas, Lim, Minelli, Ng, Patterson, Papp, Rosenberg, Štys, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 7: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Kottelat, Kullander, Pape, and van Tol.

Pyle was on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Grygier noted that in paragraph 4 of the application, Krishnaswamy's species name *pseudo-oculata* should have been corrected to *pseudooculata*, not *pseudoculata*; Article 32.5.2.3 requires only removal of the hyphen, not further elision. Also, in case the present proposals had been rejected, the author should have taken this opportunity to act as first reviser in determining the relative priority of Nicholls' two simultaneously published genera. If that has already been done elsewhere, it should have been mentioned.

Voting AGAINST, Alonso-Zarazaga said he felt that the reasons given to accept a reversal of precedence for names made available during the 20th century were weak. The names are of interest for a few specialists; consequently, he felt that the Principle of Priority must stand. He noted that the case had raised no comments. Bouchet, also voting AGAINST, said that conditional reversal of precedence is a source of nomenclatural instability, and he would not vote in favour of a proposal that rests on such conditional reversal of precedence. None of the species names of harpacticoid copepods involved in the application has been extensively used outside a small circle of copepodologists. None has economic importance, or been used as an ecological indicator, or a model organism. He felt that priority should prevail. Kullander, also voting AGAINST, said that the original spelling *stromii* should be maintained, not the incorrect subsequent spelling *stroemii*.

Original references

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

curvata, Laophonte, Douwe, 1929, *Zoologischer Anzeiger*, **83**(11/12): 286.

Heterolaophonte Lang, 1948, *Monographie der Harpacticiden*, Håkan Ohlsson, Lund, p. 34.

littoralis, Laophonte, Scott & Scott, 1893, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (6)**12**: 238.

Mesolaophonte Nicholls, 1941, *Records of the South Australian Museum*, **7**(1): 102.

Monolaophonte Nicholls, 1941, *Records of the South Australian Museum*, **7**(1): 104.