

**OPINION 2258 (Case 3475)*****Myrmarachne* MacLeay, 1839 (Araneae, SALTICIDAE): generic name conserved**

**Abstract.** The Commission has conserved the generic name *Myrmarachne* MacLeay, 1839 for a well-known and widespread group of extant, ant-mimicking jumping spiders (Araneae, SALTICIDAE) by suppression of the little-used senior subjective synonym *Entomocephalus* Holl, 1829 originally introduced for a fossil spider.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Araneae; SALTICIDAE; *Myrmarachne*; *Entomocephalus*; jumping spider.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the generic name *Entomocephalus* Holl, 1829 is suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *Myrmarachne* MacLeay, 1839 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Myrmarachne melanocephala* MacLeay, 1839, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *melanocephala* MacLeay, 1839, as published in the binomen *Myrmarachne melanocephala*, specific name of the type species of *Myrmarachne* MacLeay, 1839, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *Entomocephalus* Holl, 1829, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

**History of Case 3475**

An application to conserve the generic name *Myrmarachne* MacLeay, 1839 for a well-known and widespread group of extant, ant-mimicking jumping spiders (Araneae, SALTICIDAE) by suppression of a little-used senior subjective synonym, *Entomocephalus* Holl, 1829 was received from J.A. Dunlop (*Museum fuer Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin, Germany*) and D. Penney (*University of Manchester, U.K.*) on 14 August 2008. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 66(1): 20–23 (March, 2009). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. One comment in support was published in BZN 66(2): 168.

**Decision of the Commission**

On 2 March 2010 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 66: 22 (March 2008). At the close of the voting period on 2 June 2010 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 19: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bouchet, Brothers, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lim, Minelli, Ng, Papp, Rosenberg, van Tol, Winston, Yanega and Zhou.

Negative votes – 7: Bogutskaya, Fautin, Kojima, Lamas, Pape, Patterson and Štys. Pyle and Zhang were on leave of absence.

Bogutskaya, voting AGAINST, suggested that the authors should have asked for conditional suppression for the two generic names which are ‘probably’ subjective synonyms. Fautin, voting AGAINST, felt the Case was not clearly formulated. The authors were uncertain of the identity of the genus they ask to suppress as there is no specimen resembling the illustration that was the source of the name, much less the original one itself. Lamas, voting AGAINST, also noted that the subjective synonymy between *Entomocephalus* Holl, 1829, and *Myrmarachne* MacLeay, 1839 has not been formally established, and the authors only consider it ‘likely’ that those names are synonyms. He felt that the Commission was being asked to endorse a subjective taxonomic decision which has not yet been established. Štys, voting AGAINST, said that while he fully agreed with the spirit of the proposal, the generic name *Entomocephalus* Holl, 1829 does not need to be suppressed, and a conditional suppression would have been sufficient.

Winston, voting FOR, noted that this Case was a good demonstration of the problems created when a fossil is used as type of what is otherwise a Recent group.

### Original references

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

- Entomocephalus* Holl, 1829, *Handbuch der Petrefactenkunde*, Hilscher, Dresden, pp. 178–9.  
*melanocephala*, *Myrmarachne*, MacLeay, 1839, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (1)2: 11.  
*Myrmarachne* MacLeay, 1839, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (1)2: 10.