

OPINION 2277 (Case 3504)***Onthophagus rugulosus* Harold, 1886 (Coleoptera, SCARABAEIDAE):
specific name conserved**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the specific name of the dung beetle *Onthophagus rugulosus* Harold, 1886 (Coleoptera: SCARABAEIDAE), a widespread species from East Asia, by suppressing the senior secondary homonym *Elytridium rugulosum* Heer, 1870, a fragmentary fossil from the Miocene of Spitsbergen, Norway, that was transferred to *Onthophagus* in 1977. A replacement name, *O. spitsbergeniensis* nom. nov., has been provided for the dubious fossil species.

Keywords. Nomenclature; Coleoptera; SCARABAEIDAE; *Onthophagus*; *Elytridium*; *Onthophagus rugulosus*; *Onthophagus spitsbergeniensis*; dung beetles; Miocene; East Asia; Spitsbergen.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the specific name *rugulosum* Heer, 1870, as published in the binomen *Elytridium rugulosum*, and all uses of the name before Harold (1886) are suppressed for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *rugulosus* Harold, 1886, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus rugulosus*;
 - (b) *spitsbergeniensis* Krell, 2010, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus spitsbergeniensis*, replacement name for *Elytridium rugulosum* Heer, 1870.
- (3) The name *rugulosum* Heer, 1870, as published in the binomen *Elytridium rugulosum* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3504

An application to conserve the specific name of the dung beetle *Onthophagus rugulosus* Harold, 1886 (Coleoptera: SCARABAEIDAE), a widespread species from East Asia, by suppressing the senior secondary homonym *Elytridium rugulosum* Heer, 1870, based on a fragmentary fossil from the Miocene of Spitsbergen, Norway, that was transferred to *Onthophagus* in 1977, was received from Frank-Thorsten Krell (*Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, CO, U.S.A.*) on 17 September 2009. After correspondence the case was published in *BZN* 67: 28–31 (March 2010). 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 2011 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in *BZN* 67: 29. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2011 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 25: Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Ng, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 0.

Alonso-Zarazaga, Lim and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Grygier said he would have liked to know whether the holotype of *Onthophagus spitsbergeniensis* is extant and, if so, where and with what catalogue information, even though this is not required information for a replacement name. Ng said that the replacement name had already been proposed and was nomenclaturally valid as the BZN is a valid publication. Winston, voting FOR, commented that basing a Recent species on a fossil type usually turns out to be a mistake. Zhou, voting FOR, noted that the replacement name would be invalid if the case was not supported by the Commission.

Original references

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

rugulosum, *Elytridium*, Heer, 1870, *Kongliga Svenska Vetenskaps-Akademiens Handlingar*, **8**(7): 78.

rugulosus, *Onthophagus*, Harold, 1886, in Heyden, L. von, Harold, [E.] von & Kraatz, G. 1886. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift*, **30**: 289.

spitsbergeniensis, *Onthophagus*, Krell, 2010, *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **67**: 29.