

OPINION 2282 (Case 3502)***Coluber nummifer* Reuss, 1834 (currently *Hemorrhois nummifer*; Reptilia, Serpentes): specific name conserved**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the widely used specific name *nummifer* Reuss, 1834 for an eastern Mediterranean colubrine snake originally published within *Coluber* Linnaeus, 1758 and currently referred to the genus *Hemorrhois* Boie, 1826, by suppressing the putative senior synonym *Coluber tyria* Linnaeus, 1758.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; COLUBRIDAE; *Coluber*; *Coluber tyria*; *Hemorrhois nummifer*; coin snake; diadem snake; eastern Mediterranean; Saharo-Sindian.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the specific name *tyria* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Coluber tyria*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority, but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *nummifer* Reuss, 1834, as published in the binomen *Coluber nummifer*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *tyria* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Coluber tyria* and as suppressed in (1) above is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3502

An application to conserve the widely used specific name *nummifer* Reuss, 1834 for an eastern Mediterranean colubrine snake originally published within *Coluber* Linnaeus, 1758 and currently referred to the genus *Hemorrhois* Boie, 1826, by suppressing the putative senior synonym *Coluber tyria* Linnaeus, 1758, was received from Beat Schätti (*San Pedro Pochutla, Oaxaca, Mexico*) and Frank Tillack (*Berlin, Germany*) on 2 September 2009. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 67: 44–52 (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: 47. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2011 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 21: Ballerio, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 3: Bogutskaya, Ng and van Tol.

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

Voting AGAINST, Ng said that while he was very sympathetic to the case and the arguments, he did not believe the solution suggested here was the best way forward

for long-term stability. He felt that the fact that the name had been used probably incorrectly in some cases did not change the rules involved. Considering that the species of snake in question had not been widely used in other domains of biology, and was primarily used in ecology, faunistics and systematics, an eventual change in name, perhaps to *Coluber tyria* Linnaeus, 1758 with an appropriate neotype selection, should not cause substantial problems. Voting AGAINST, van Tol said that this case should have been resolved by designating a neotype for *Coluber tyria*.

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:

nummifer, *Coluber*, Reuss, 1834, *Museum Senckenbergianum*, 1(6): 135.

tyria, *Coluber*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1. Salvii, Holmiae, p. 224.