

OPINION 2302 (Case 3528)***Ephippus* Cuvier, 1816, EPHIPPIDAE Gill, 1861, *Scatophagus* Cuvier, 1831 and SCATOPHAGIDAE Bleeker, 1876 (Osteichthyes): usage conserved**

Abstract. The Commission has preserved stability in the nomenclature and taxonomy of two families of marine fishes by designating *Chaetodon orbis* Bloch, 1787 as the type species of the genus *Ephippus*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; SCATOPHAGIDAE; *Scatophagus*; scats; EPHIPPIDAE; *Ephippus*; spadefishes; batfishes.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Ephippus* Cuvier, 1816 are hereby set aside and *Chaetodon orbis* Bloch, 1787 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The name *Ephippus* Cuvier, 1816 (gender: masculine), type species *Chaetodon orbis* Bloch, 1787, as ruled in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *orbis* Bloch, 1787, as published in the binomen *Chaetodon orbis* (specific name of the type species of *Ephippus* Cuvier, 1816, as ruled in (1) above), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name EPHIPPIDAE Gill, 1861, type genus *Ephippus* Cuvier, 1816, is hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3528

An application to preserve stability in the nomenclature and taxonomy of two families of marine fishes by designating *Chaetodon orbis* Bloch, 1787 as the type species of the genus *Ephippus* was received from Maurice Kottelat (*Cornol, Switzerland and Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, Singapore*) on 18 June 2010. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 67: 303–306 (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 December 2011 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 67: 305. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2012 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 24: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bouchet, Bogutskaya, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Krell, Kullander, Lim, Minelli, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 0.

Kottelat, Ng and Pyle were on leave of absence. No vote was received from Lamas.

Despite voting FOR, Štys said he took exception to paragraph 13 in the application. Out of Bleeker's (1876) three 'family-group names' Proteracanthiformes, Chaetodipteriformes and Plataciformes, the author of the application gives precedence to the family name PLATACIDAE Bleeker, 1876, acting as a first reviser. In the absence of any further information on Bleeker's treatment of suprageneric names Štys would argue that none of the three are family-group names according to the provisions of the Code and its Glossary; they are simply compound names that fall formally within categories of higher than family-group names not covered by the Code. Štys felt that even when such a compound name contained a genus-group name as its first part, there was still no ground to 'downgrade' such a name to a family-group level and use the genus name concerned as its name-bearing type.

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:

- Ephippus* Cuvier, 1816, *Le règne animal distribué d'après son organisation, pour servir de base à l'histoire naturelle des animaux et d'introduction à l'anatomie comparée. Tome II.* xvii, Deterville, Paris, p. 335.
- orbis, Chaetodon*, Bloch, 1787, *Naturgeschichte der Ausländischen Fische. Dritter Theil.* xii, p. 81, pl. 202, fig. 2.
- EPHIPPIDAE Gill, 1861, *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, **13** (Suppl.): 64.