

**OPINION 2306 (Case 3542)*****Trachelus* Jurine, 1807 (Hymenoptera, CEPHIDAE): precedence given over *Astatus* Panzer, [1801]**

**Abstract.** The Commission has conserved the current usage of the widely used sawfly genus name *Trachelus* Jurine, 1807 by giving it precedence over its senior synonym *Astatus* Panzer, [1801]. The ‘black grain stem sawfly’, *Trachelus tabidus* (Fabricius, 1775), is a pest of cereals in the southern West Palaearctic and in North America.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; CEPHIDAE; *Astatus*; *Trachelus*; sawfly; West Palaearctic; Nearctic.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power, the Commission has given the generic name *Trachelus* Jurine, 1807 precedence over the name *Astatus* Panzer, [1801], whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Trachelus* Jurine, 1807 (genus: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Rohwer (1911a) *Sirex tabidus* Fabricius, 1775, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *Astatus* Panzer, [1801], whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *Astatus* Panzer, [1801] (genus: masculine), type species by monotypy *Sirex troglodyta* Fabricius, 1787, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Trachelus* Jurine, 1807, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *tabidus* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Sirex tabidus* (specific name of the type species of *Trachelus* Jurine, 1807);
  - (b) *troglodyta* Fabricius, 1787, as published in the binomen *Sirex troglodyta* (specific name of the type species of *Astatus* Panzer, [1801]).

**History of Case 3542**

An application to conserve the widely used sawfly genus name *Trachelus* Jurine, 1807 by giving it precedence over its senior synonym *Astatus* Panzer, [1801] was received from Stephan M. Blank and Andreas Taeger (*Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg, Germany*) on 29 October 2010. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 68: 65–70 (2011). 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 2012 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 68: 68. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2012 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 19: Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Brothers, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Pape, Patterson, Rosenberg, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 3: Alonso-Zarazaga, Lim and Štys.

Bouchet and Kojima abstained. Fautin, Ng and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Alonso-Zarazaga voted AGAINST and commented that many economically important species have changed their names along the history of zoology, and he could not see why this single pest was used as the main argument to interfere with the application of the Principle of Priority affecting two genera. He felt that the combination *Astatus tabidus* had been used several times before the present and it could be used again with minimal effort. It seemed also that users were not much affected, given that no comment had been received. Also voting AGAINST, Štys said he believed that the Principle of Priority should be followed since both the generic names were in use, and that economic entomologists would surely get used to a change from the more familiar *Trachelus tabidus* to the correct *Astatus tabidus*. He said that this application was overloaded with historical nomenclatural and taxonomic data which were of interest to those dealing with historical changes in the generic concepts and allocation of specific names, but were irrelevant for the problem to be solved.

## Original references

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

- Astatus* Panzer, [1801] *Faunae Insectorum Germanicae initia oder Deutschlands Insecten*. Vol. 7 [1799–1801] (83), Felssecker, Nürnberg, p. 12.
- tabidus*, *Sirex*, Fabricius, 1775, *Systema Entomologiae sistens Insectorum classes, ordines, genera, species, adjectis synonymis, locis, descriptionibus, observationibus*. [30], 832 pp. Korte, Flensburgi & Lipsiae, p. 326.
- Trachelus* Jurine, 1807, *Nouvelle méthode de classer les Hyménoptères et les Diptères*, vol. 4(II), Genève & Paris, pp. 70–72, plate 2, fig. 9.
- troglodyta*, *Sirex*, Fabricius, 1787, *Mantissa Insectorum, sistens eorum species nuper detectas: adjectis characteribus genericis, differentiis specificis, emendationibus, observationibus*, vol. 1. xx, Christ. Gottl. Proft., Hafniæ, pp. 258–259.