

OPINION 2313 (Case 3510)

***Cyclodina aenea* Girard, 1857 (currently *Oligosoma aeneum*; Reptilia, Squamata, SCINCIDAE) and *Tiliqua ornata* Gray, 1843 (currently *Oligosoma ornatum*): specific names conserved and neotype designated**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the usage of the specific names *Oligosoma aeneum* (Girard, 1857) and *Oligosoma ornatum* (Gray 1843), widely used for species of New Zealand skinks (copper skink and ornate skink), by setting aside the existing holotype of *Tiliqua ornata* Gray, 1843 and designating a neotype.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Squamata; SCINCIDAE; *Oligosoma*; *Cyclodina*; *Oligosoma ornatum*; *Oligosoma aeneum*; copper skink; ornate skink; New Zealand.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power, the Commission has set aside the existing holotype of *Tiliqua ornata* Gray, 1843 and has designated as neotype specimen NMNZ RE.002457 (formerly NMNZ R.1815 and EDS.912) in the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, collected at Manakau, Horowhenua, by A.H. Whitaker on 7 September 1971.
- (2) The name *ornata* Gray, 1843, as published in the binomen *Tiliqua ornata*, and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3510

An application to conserve the current usage of the specific names *Oligosoma aeneum* (Girard, 1857) and *Oligosoma ornatum* (Gray 1843), widely used for two species of New Zealand skinks (the copper skink and ornate skink), was received from Geoffrey B. Patterson (*Wilton, Wellington, New Zealand*) and Rodney A. Hitchmough (*Species and Ecosystems Unit, R & D, Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand*) on 14 December 2009. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **67**: 307–313 (2010). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. One comment including revised proposals by the authors requesting to conserve the usage by setting aside the existing holotype of *Tiliqua ornata* Gray, 1843 and designating a neotype was published in BZN **68**: 144.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 June 2012 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **68**: 144, by use of the plenary power. At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2012 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 20: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Krell, Kottelat, Lamas, Minelli, Pape, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 3: Kojima, Kullander and Lim.

Bouchet abstained.

Ng, Patterson and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Bouchet ABSTAINED, explaining that while the original application was technically untenable he completely agreed with the move to designate a neotype for *Tiliqua ornata*. However, he asked, why stop halfway to a good and modern solution: designate as neotype a specimen for which molecular data are available. He pointed out that the neotype was collected 41 years ago and might not be suitable for sequencing.

Voting AGAINST, Kojima said that approval of this proposal was suggested to be a precondition for the authors to publish their taxonomic accounts of these *Oligosoma* species. However, he felt that such a taxonomic conclusion should be published before a proposal was made.

Original references

The following is the original reference to the name placed on Official Lists and Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

ornata, *Tiliqua*, Gray, 1843, Descriptions of the Reptiles and Amphibia hitherto observed in New Zealand. In Dieffenbach, E. (Ed.), *Travels in New Zealand with contributions to the geography, geology, botany and natural history of that country*. John Murray, p. 202.