

SUPPORT FOR THE GANS/LOVERIDGE PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "DASYPELTIS" WAGLER, 1830 (CLASS REPTILIA)

By HOBART M. SMITH

(University of Illinois, Department of Zoology, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)660)

(Letter dated 22nd September 1952)

Inasmuch as *Dasypeltis* Wagler, 1830, is a name rather widely referred to in zoological literature, as applying to an odd genus of peculiarly adapted egg-eating snakes, I am of the opinion that the proposal by Gans and Loveridge (1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 347-348) for the validation by the Commission of this name in this sense should be upheld.

SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "DASYPELTIS" WAGLER, 1830, AND TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY OF THE SPECIES TO WHICH THE TRIVIAL NAME "SIMUS" LINNAEUS, 1767 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "COLUBER SIMUS") SHOULD BE APPLIED (CLASS REPTILIA)

By JAMES A. OLIVER

(Curator of Reptiles, New York Zoological Society, Zoological Park, New York)

(Commission references Z.N.(S.)660 ("Dasypeltis") and Z.N.(S.)662 ("simus"))

(Letter dated 22nd October 1952)

(For the applications concerned, see 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 347-348 and 354-355 respectively)

I am writing to support two recent requests for use of the plenary powers of the International Commission in regard to the nomenclature of Reptiles. I believe that both of these proposals are desirable from the standpoint of nomenclatorial stability. Both proposals apply to well-known forms and involve names that have been long in use. The proposals in question are :—

- (1) Validation of the generic name *Dasypeltis* Wagler, 1830, for the African Egg-eating Snake, by Carl Gans and Arthur Loveridge (Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)660).
- (2) Determination of the species to which the trivial name *simus* Linnaeus, 1767, as published in the combination *Coluber simus*, is to be applied, by Richard A. Edgren (Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)662).

I am in complete agreement with all of the requests made under each of these proposals.

SUPPORT FOR DR. RICHARD A. EDGREN'S PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO DETERMINE THE APPLICATION OF THE TRIVIAL NAME "SIMUS" LINNAEUS, 1767 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "COLUBER SIMUS") (CLASS REPTILIA)

By HOBART M. SMITH

(University of Illinois, Department of Zoology, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)662)

(Letter dated 22nd September 1952)

In view of the stability which the trivial name *simus* Linnaeus, 1767 (as published in the binominal combination *Coluber simus*) has enjoyed for such a long period and likewise in view of the acknowledged power of the Commission to associate any name with any species under justifiable circumstances, in my opinion the recommendation by Edgren (1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 354-355) that the Commission perpetuate this name in the present application should be upheld.



Smith, Hobart M. 1952. "Support for the Gans-Loveridge proposal for the use of the plenary powers to validate the generic name *Dasypeltis* Wagler, 1830 (Class Reptilia)." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 9, 157.

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