

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS THE SPECIFIC NAME "BROUNI" HUTTON, 1901, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "DROSOPHILA BROUNI," FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING THE SPECIFIC NAME "IMMIGRANS" STURTEVANT, 1921, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "DROSOPHILA IMMIGRANS" (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER DIPTERA)

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the name *brouni* Hutton, 1901, as published in the combination *Drosophila brouni*, for the purpose of preserving the well-known name *immigrans* Sturtevant, 1921, as published in the combination *Drosophila immigrans*. The facts of this case are set out below.

2. In a recent study of New Zealand DROSOPHILIDAE (1952, *Trans. Proc. Roy. Soc. New Zealand* **79** : 514-515), Roy A. Harrison proposes to place the name *Drosophila immigrans* Sturtevant, 1921 (*Carnegie Inst. Washington*, Publ. No. **301** : 83) in the synonymy of *Drosophila brouni* Hutton, 1901 (*Trans. New Zealand Inst.* **33** : 91). The present applicants believe that to accept this proposal would greatly disturb uniformity and stability of zoological nomenclature, particularly since the zoological identity of the species on which these names are based is by no means unequivocally established. Any action on these names must take the following facts into consideration.

3. The original description of *Drosophila brouni* Hutton is taxonomically worthless. It does not contain a single statement that would permit identification of the nominal species *Drosophila brouni* as a member of the *D. immigrans* group, or even of the genus *Drosophila*.

4. The type specimen of *D. brouni* is still in existence (Harrison, 1952), but it is a female. Females in several species in the *Drosophila immigrans* group cannot be distinguished on the basis of a study of external characters, even when they are alive, much less on the basis of a single, old, dried, pinned specimen.

5. There are fifteen to twenty names available for presumed *immigrans*-like species in the Pacific area. The group has not yet been monographed, nor genetically or cytologically analysed. No one knows how many species there really are or what their proper names are. The Pacific appears to be the centre of diversity of this group.

6. The type specimen of *Drosophila brouni* was collected more than fifty years ago. Although flies have recently been caught in New Zealand which produce fertile offspring with U.S. *Drosophila immigrans* and presumably belong to this species, this does not prove that they belong to the same species-population as the type specimen of *Drosophila brouni* Hutton. It is not known how many members of the Pacific *immigrans*-group may occasionally reach New Zealand, and, in view of the rapid changes in the New Zealand biota, it is possible that different species of *Drosophila* were predominant fifty years ago than are now.

7. The name *immigrans* is not only the name of a well-known species, but it is also the "type species" of an important subdivision of the genus *Drosophila*, "The *immigrans* group of species." A revision of this group is now in progress and it is possible that the nominal species *Drosophila immigrans* Sturtevant will be found to be a composite of several sibling species. Nevertheless, the name *immigrans* ought to be preserved for a species of this important group, regardless of the ultimate taxonomic definition of the species *Drosophila immigrans* Sturtevant. If necessary, an explanatory note should be added to the entry on the *Official List* of the name *immigrans* Sturtevant, as soon as the species so named has been fully defined.

8. The name *Drosophila immigrans* is universally known in the biological literature and has been used in literally hundreds of papers. For the entire period since 1921 during which the species has been studied in genetics no name other than *immigrans* has been used for it. The name *immigrans* is thus so firmly in the biological literature that it would be confusing in the extreme to replace it by the name *brouni*, aside from the many above-mentioned uncertainties regarding the species to which the latter name applies.

9. The present applicants accordingly petition the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to prevent the discard of the universally known name *immigrans* Sturtevant by suppressing the name *brouni* Hutton. The action which the International Commission is now asked to take is that it should :—

- (1) use its Plenary Powers to suppress the name *brouni* Hutton, 1901, as published in the combination *Drosophila brouni*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (2) place the foregoing name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) place the name *immigrans* Sturtevant, 1921, as published in the combination *Drosophila immigrans*, on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.



Mayr, Ernst et al. 1954. "Proposed use of the plenary powers to suppress the specific name "brouni" Hutton, 1901, as published in the combination "Drosophila brouni," for the purpose of preserving the specific name "immigrans" Sturtevant, 1921, as published in the combination "Drosophila immigrans" (class Insecta, order Diptera)." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 9, 161–162. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.10259>.

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