

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

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OPINION 538

Designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species
in harmony with accustomed usage for the nominal genus

Ptychopyge Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita)

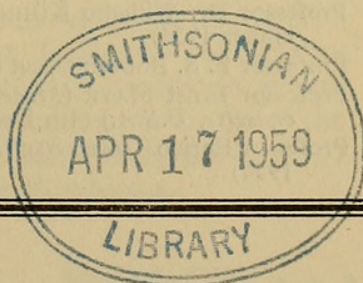
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 538

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Professor Ernst MAYR (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

OPINION 538

DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USAGE FOR THE NOMINAL GENUS "PTYCHOPYGE" ANGELIN, 1854 (CLASS TRILOBITA)

RULING :—(1) the following action is hereby taken under the Plenary Powers :—

(a) All selections of type species for the nominal genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside.

(b) Following upon (a) above, the nominal species *Asaphus angustifrons* Dalman, [1827], is hereby designated to be the type species of the genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1330 :—

Ptychopyge Angelin, 1854 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above : *Asaphus angustifrons* Dalman, [1827]).

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1597 :—

angustifrons Dalman, [1827], as published in the combination *Asaphus angustifrons* (specific name of type species of *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 22nd July 1955, Dr. Valdar Jaanusson (*Uppsala Universitets Paleontologiska Institution, Uppsala, Sweden*) addressed a preliminary communication to the Office of the Commission on the question of the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the existing usage of the generic name *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita). Following correspondence with the Secretary on certain questions of detail, the following substantive application was submitted to the Commission by Dr. Jaanusson on 10th January 1956 :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate a type species in harmony with generally accepted usage for the genus "Ptychopyge" Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita)

By VALDAR JAANUSSON

(*Paleontologiska Institutionen, Uppsala Universitet, Sweden*)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to designate as the type species of the genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita) the species generally accepted as such, thereby avoiding the serious confusion which would inevitably result from the application of the normal provisions of the *Règles* in this case. The generic name *Ptychopyge* was proposed in 1854 (: 51) by Angelin who included a number of species in this genus.

2. Brögger (1886 : 32) gave the first comprehensive discussion of *Ptychopyge* after Angelin, and stated that "als typische Art dieser Formengruppe [= *Ptychopyge*] . . . dürfte *Pt. angustifrons*, Dalm. gelten können". The genus was treated monographically by Fr. Schmidt (1904 : 30–31) who also regarded *Ptychopyge angustifrons* (Dalm.) as "typische Art der Gattung". The same species was given as the type species of *Ptychopyge* by Reed (1930 : 290) and Skjeseth (1952 : 165). The latter writer attributed the selection of the type species of *Ptychopyge* to Brögger (1886) but the wording in Brögger's paper as cited above can scarcely be regarded as constituting a definite selection of the type species.

3. The nominal species *Ptychopyge appanata* [Sic!] Angelin was designated as the type species of the genus *Ptychopyge* by Vogdes (1890 : 84). This selection by Vogdes was purely formal, given in a list of genera and their type species, and *Ptychopyge applanata* was probably chosen by him because it was the first species of the genus mentioned by Angelin (1854 : 51). Vogdes had no first-hand knowledge either of this genus or of related European genera. In a later list of Trilobite genera Vogdes (1925 : 111) recorded *Ptychopyge glabrata* Angelin, 1854, as the type species of *Ptychopyge*, without giving any explanation as to the reason of the change of the type species.

4. The original material of *Ptychopyge applanata* Angelin, 1854, cannot be traced in the State Museum of Natural History (Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet) in Stockholm, nor has any other specimen resembling Angelin's figure been obtained from the type region (Kinnekulle, Västergötland, Sweden). Only the pygidium was figured and very briefly described by Angelin (1854 : 51, Pl. XXVII, fig. 6). The figure is, moreover, too roughly drawn (ornamentation being omitted) to allow the identification of the species with certainty. Thus, the name *Ptychopyge applanata* must at present for all practical purposes be regarded as a *nomen dubium*. The genus *Ptychopyge* as defined by Angelin was since then subdivided into several genera and a further subdivision is very likely. The attribution of *Ptychopyge applanata* to any of the genera which show a similar type of pygidium cannot be safely established if based only on the figure of Angelin (1854). If the normal provisions of the *Règles* were strictly applied in this case, the well-known generic name *Ptychopyge* would, therefore, have to be regarded as a *nomen dubium*.

5. In actual fact all workers but Vogdes on the genus *Ptychopyge* and related genera have regarded *Asaphus angustifrons* Dalman, [1827] (: 239), as the type species of *Ptychopyge*. Also for Angelin (1854) this species was more completely known than any other species referred by him to *Ptychopyge*.

6. The generic name *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854, has not been taken as the base for a family-group name, Angelin's genus being currently referred to the family ASAPHIDAE.

7. In the light of the foregoing considerations, I ask that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its Plenary Powers :—

- (a) to set aside all type selections for the genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854, made prior to the decision now proposed to be given ;
- (b) to designate *Asaphus angustifrons* Dalman, [1827], to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

- (2) place the generic name *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation, as proposed under (1)(b) above, under the Plenary Powers : *Asaphus angustifrons* Dalman, [1827]) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) place the specific name *angustifrons* Dalman, [1827], as published in the combination *Asaphus angustifrons* (specific name of type species of *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854) on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

8. A decision on the question dealt with in the present application is urgently required in connection with the preparation of the forthcoming *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and for this reason it is particularly hoped that it will be possible for the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to settle this question as quickly as possible.

References

- Angelin, N. P., 1854. *Palaeontologia Scandinavica*, P. I, Crustacea Formationis Transitionis, Lipsiae (Lundae)
- Brögger, W. C., 1886. Ueber die Ausbildung des Hypostomes bei einigen skandinavischen Asaphiden. *Bihang K. sv. Vet.-Akad. Handl.*, Bd. 11, No. 3 ; *Sver. Geol. Unders.*, Ser. C, No. 82, Stockholm
- Dalman, J. W., [1827]. Om Palaeaderna eller de så kallade trilobiterna. *Kongl. Vetensk.-Akad. Handlingar för år 1826*, No. 2, Stockholm
- Reed, F. R. C., 1930. A Review of the Asaphidae. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, Ser. 10, Vol. V, London
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- Skjeseth, S., 1952. On the Lower Didymograptus Zone (3B) at Ringsåker, and contemporaneous Deposits in Scandinavia. *Norsk Geologisk Tidsskrift* 30, Oslo
- Vogdes, A. W., 1890. A Bibliography of Palaeozoic Crustacea from 1698 to 1889, including a list of North American species and a systematic arrangement of genera. *Bull. U.S. Geol. Survey*, No. 63, Washington
- , 1925. Palaeozoic Crustacea. Part II—A List of the Genera and Subgenera of the Trilobita. *Transact. San Diego Soc. nat. Hist.*, Vol. IV, San Diego, Calif.

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Dr. Jaanusson's preliminary enquiry the question of the validation of the existing usage of the generic name *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita) was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 997.

3. Support received before publication of application : Prior to the publication of the present application the following letter of support was received by the Office of the Commission signed jointly by Dr. Gunnar Henningsmoen

(Paleontological Museum, University of Oslo) and Dr. Leif Størmer (Paleontological Institute, University of Oslo) (Henningsmoen & Størmer, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 364) :—

We are aware that Brögger (1886) unfortunately did not definitely state that *Ptychopyge angustifrons* was the type species of *Ptychopyge*, and that the first legal designation of a type species was that of Vogdes (1890), who selected *Pt. app(l)anata* as type species.

As pointed out by V. Jaanusson, it would be most unfortunate if *Pt. appplanata*, apparently a *nomen dubium*, should be regarded as type species. We strongly support Dr. Jaanusson's proposal to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of recognizing *Pt. angustifrons* as the type species of the genus *Ptychopyge*.

4. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 20th February 1956 and was published on 30th November of that year in Part 12 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Jaanusson, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 359–361).

5. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51–56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 30th November 1956 (a) in Part 12 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the part in which Dr. Jaanusson's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications and to three palaeontological serials in Europe and America.

6. No Objection Received : No objection to the action proposed in the present case was received from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)44 : On 3rd June 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)44) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the proposed designation of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854, as set out in Points (1) to (3) in paragraph 7 on page 360 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

8. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 3rd September 1957.

9. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)44 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)44 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-three (23) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Hering ; Vokes ; Lemche ; Bodenheimer ; Boschma ; Key ;

Jaczewski ; Mayr ; Prantl ; Dymond ; Riley ; Bonnet ; Hankó ; Esaki ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Tortonese ; do Amaral ; Stoll ; Hemming ; Cabrera ; Kühnelt ;

(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, two (2)* :

Miller¹ ; Mertens¹.

10. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 7th October 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)44, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 9 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

11. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " : On 3rd May 1958, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)44.

12. Original References for Generic and Specific Names : The following are the original references for generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

angustifrons, *Asaphus*, Dalman, [1827], *K. Vetensk.-Akad. Handl.*, Stockholm 1826 (No. 2) : 239

Ptychopyge Angelin, 1854, *Pal. scand.* [ed. 1] 2 : 51

13. Family-Group-Name Aspect : No family-group-name problem arises in the present case, the genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, as the applicant explains (in paragraph 6 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*), being currently placed in the genus ASAPHIDAE.

14. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

¹ After the close of the Prescribed Voting Period late affirmative votes were received from Commissioner Miller and from Commissioner Mertens.

15. "Opinion" Number : The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Thirty-Eight (538) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Third day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING



1959. "Opinion 538 Designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the nominal genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita)." *Opinions and declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 20, 57–64.

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