

PROPOSED VALIDATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF
THE GENERIC NAME "HOMALASPIS" MILNE EDWARDS (A.),
1863 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) (PROPOSED
VALIDATION OF AN ERROR IN "OPINION" 85)

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Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 560)

The purpose of the present application is to seek the assistance of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in validating the generic name *Homalaspis* Milne Edwards (A.), 1863 (*Ann. Sci. nat.*, Paris (Zool.) (4) 20 : 279) (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), which was placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 85 (1925, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 3) : 13) in the erroneous belief that it was a nomenclatorially available name.

2. The present case first came to light in 1944 during a preliminary survey of the pre-1936 entries on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* which I carried out at that time. That survey showed that the name *Homalaspis* Milne Edwards, 1863, was invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of the name *Homalaspis* Reinhard, 1860 (*Berlin. ent. Z.* 4 : 239), an emendation of the name *Omalaspis* Giraud, 1860 (*Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 10 (Abh.) : 155), the name of a genus in the Order Hymenoptera (Class Insecta).

3. As a first step in the examination of the question of the action needed in the present case, I consulted Dr. R. B. Benson (*British Museum (Natural History)*, London) for the purpose of ascertaining whether the suppression under the Plenary Powers of the name *Homalaspis* Reinhard for the purpose of validating the name *Homalaspis* Milne Edwards in the Class Crustacea would cause any disturbance or inconvenience in the nomenclature of the Hymenoptera. Dr. Benson replied on 21st April 1944 as follows :—

I cannot see that any possible harm could come by suppressing *Homalaspis* Reinhard.

Omalaspis Giraud is in use for a genus of the Cynipoid family ASPICERIDAE. The three described species, all European, are rare or, at least, little known, and they rarely appear in the literature. Since Dalla-Torre & Kieffer's (1910) *Cynipidae in Das Tierreich*, where "*Omalaspis*" was used, I am not aware that the form of the name "*Homalaspis*" has ever been used. I only know of three references to "*Omalaspis*" (Hedicke, 1928, *Bull. Soc. ent. France* 1928 : 280, Weld, 1931, *Proc. ent. Soc. Wash.* 33 : 221 and Rohwer & Fagan, 1917, "The type species of the Genera of the Cynipidae . . .", *Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 53 : 357—380; and in this type list the form of the name "*Homalaspis*" is not even mentioned!). I cannot

see any reason therefore against suppressing *Homalaspis* Reinhard as no confusion is likely to arise. Even if *Omalaspis* Giraud is later found to be invalid for any reason, there is a second string in *Lambertiona* Kieffer, with a conspecific type species.

4. Dr. Benson's letter made it quite clear that there could be no objection from the entomological side to the validation of the generic name *Homalaspis* Milne Edwards, 1863, in the Class Crustacea, and I recommend that this action should now be taken by the International Commission, in order that the defective entry of this name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* made by *Opinion* 85 may thereby be regularised.

5. I further recommend that in pursuance of the General Directive issued to the Commission by the International Congress of Zoology that Rulings given in *Opinions* are in future to cover the whole field embraced in any given instance, the Commission should at the same time place the generic name *Omalaspis* Giraud, 1860, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. As regards the type species of that genus, I am informed (*in. litt.*, 6th December 1954) by Dr. Benson that L. H. Weld (1952, *Cynipoidea* (Hym.) 1905—1950, Ann Arbor Michigan : 16) has expressed the view that the name *Omalaspis noricus* Giraud, 1860, is a junior synonym of *Omalaspis nigra* (Hartig, 1840) (= *Figites niger* Hartig, 1840, *Z. Ent.* (Germar) 2 : 202). In these circumstances, the correct course under the standard procedure will be to place the name *niger* Hartig, 1840, but not its junior subjective synonym *noricus* Giraud, 1860, on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*. At the same time the Invalid Emendation *Homalaspis* Reinhard, 1860, will need to be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

6. No question of family-group names arises in connection with either of the generic names involved in the present application, for the Decapod genus *Homalaspis* Milne Edwards is, I am informed by Dr. Isobel Gordon (*British Museum (Natural History)*, London), currently referred to the family XANTHIDAE, while the Hymenoptera genus *Omalaspis* Giraud is currently referred to the family ASPICERIDAE.

7. The recommendation which I now submit is that the International Commission should :—

- (1) use its Plenary Powers for the purpose of suppressing the generic name *Homalaspis* Reinhard, 1860 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy;

- (2) substitute the following revised entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* for Name No. 320 :—

Homalaspis Milne Edwards (A.), 1863, *Ann. Sci. nat.*, Paris (Zool.)

(4) 20 : 279 (gender : feminine) (type species, by original designation : *Xantho planus* Milne Edwards (H.), 1834, Roret's *Suite à Buffon, Hist. nat. Crust.* 1 : 397) ;

- (3) place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Omalaspis Giraud, 1860, *Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 10(Abh.) : 155

(gender : feminine) (type species, by monotypy : *Omalaspis noricus* Giraud, 1860, *Ver. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 10(Abh.) : 155) (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) ;

- (4) place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *planus* Milne Edwards (H.), 1834, as published in the combination *Xantho planus* (specific name of type species of *Homalaspis* Milne Edwards (A.), 1863) ;

(b) *niger* Hartig, 1840, as published in the combination *Figites niger* ;

- (5) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *Homalaspis* Reinhard, 1860, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) above ;

(b) *Homalaspis* Brunner v. Wattenwyl, 1895, *Monogr. Pseudophylliden*: 19, 217 (junior homonym of *Homalaspis* Milne Edwards (A.), 1863) ;

(c) *Homalaspis* Kiaer, 1932, *Skr. Svalbard Ishavet Oslo* 52 : 14 (junior homonym of *Homalaspis* Milne Edwards (A.), 1863).



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