

(4) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *annulatus* Desmarest, 1822, as published in the combination *Sciurus annulatus*, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1)(a) above ;
- (b) *annulatus* Desmoulins, 1824 (*Dict. Class. Hist. nat.* 6 : 73), as published in the combination *Sciurus annulatus* (a junior primary homonym of *annulatus* Desmarest, 1822, as published in the combination *Sciurus annulatus*).

SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTER-PROPOSAL THAT THE GENERIC NAME "NOTROPIS" RAFINESQUE, 1818 (CLASS OSTEICHTHYES) SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS BEING OF THE FEMININE GENDER

By JOSHUA L. BAILY, Jr.

(San Diego, California)

(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 663)

(Letter dated 27th November 1954)

(For the proposal submitted in this case, see 1954,
Bull. zool. Nomencl. 9 : 274—275)

The list of 60 writers who favour changing the gender of the name *Notropis* from feminine to masculine looks impressive, especially so when compared with the list of seven who do not, but if the list be critically considered I believe it will be found to be somewhat misleading. The authors of the application of which the list forms a part state that the names are those of ichthyologists. If the entire field of zoological systematics had been circularized I believe there would have been a different story to be told.

The termination "*-tropis*" is fairly common in generic terminology. If the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should rule that some of these names are masculine and some feminine it would compel every writer who contemplated publishing anything involving the use of any of these names either to go to the trouble of consulting the *Opinions* dealing with the names, or of burdening his memory with what is after all, a relatively unimportant matter.

If, on the other hand, the Commission should rule all such names to be masculine, then it would be necessary to change the termination of many of the specific names in the genera *Chelitropis*, *Ditropis*, *Gyrotropis*, *Heliotropis*, *Omphatotropis*, *Plectrotropis*, *Prionotropis*, *Spirotropis*, and *Trichotropis*. This would be a source of great vexation of spirit ; further, the list just cited is not exhaustive. Somewhere I have seen the names *Monotropis* and *Anomalotropis*, but I cannot find them now. There is an alternative to these two courses which would avoid the confusion that would result if either of the other two were adopted, and that alternative would be to declare that since the names ending in "*-tropis*" are properly feminine and have generally been so considered, this practice should continue.

It may be that in the case of *Notropis* it has been more usual to give the specific names masculine terminations, but notwithstanding this I would recommend that the feminine gender be retained unless it can be shown that the masculine terminations have been more generally used in all the other generic names used in the animal kingdom. I doubt very much that this will be found to be the case. Certainly I have never considered these names to be anything but feminine.



Baily, Joshua L. 1955. "Support for the counter-proposal that the generic name *Notropis* Rafinesque, 1818 (Class Osteichthyes) should be accepted as being of the feminine gender." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 11, 188.
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