

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO RENDER
THE GENERIC NAME "SCYLLARIDES" GILL, 1898 (CLASS
CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) THE OLDEST AVAIL-
ABLE NAME FOR THE SPECIES CURRENTLY REFERRED
THERETO**

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The present application relates to a generic name, *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), which is in general use, but which is not the oldest available name for the genus concerned. The ruthless application of the *Règles* in the present case would give rise to much quite unnecessary confusion, and I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent this confusion by using their plenary powers in such a way as to permit the continued use of the above generic name.

The following are the original references to the generic names dealt with in the present application :—

Scyllarides Gill, 1898, *Science* (n.s.) **7** : 98 (type species, by original designation : *Scyllarus aequinoctialis* Lund, 1793, *Skr. naturh. Selsk. Kbh.* (2) **2** : 21).

Scyllaridia Bell, 1857, *Monogr. foss. malacostr. Crust. Great Brit.* **1** : 35 (type species, by monotypy : *Scyllaridia koenigi* Bell, 1857, *Monogr. foss. malacostr. Crust. Great Brit.* **1** : 35).

Pseudibacus Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, *Rev. Mag. Zool.* (2) **7** : 137 (type species, by monotypy : *Pseudibacus veranyi* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, *Rev. Mag. Zool.* (2) **7** : 137).

The name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, is the generally accepted name for a well-known genus of large Decapoda Macrura Reptantia. Strictly, however, this name, though available nomenclatorially, is not, under current taxonomic ideas, available for the genus to which it is at present applied, for twice before the publication of Gill's paper, other authors published different names for genera, having, as their respective type species, species now regarded as congeneric with *Scyllarus aequinoctialis* Lund, the type species of *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898.

First, Guérin-Ménéville in 1855 described a new Crustacean from the Mediterranean under the name *Pseudibacus varanyi*. Later, it was found that this Crustacean was the natant stage of the species at present best known as *Scyllarides latus* (Latreille, 1803) (= *Scyllurus latus* Latreille, 1803, *Hist. nat. Crust. Ins.* **6** : 182), a common inhabitant of the Mediterranean and West African coasts. The generic name *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, is the oldest available generic name for any of the species at present recognised as belonging to the genus *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, and accordingly the latter name should be replaced by the name *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville.

Second, Bell in 1857 described a new genus of fossil Crustacea, for which

he published the generic name *Scyllaridia*. The type species of this genus is *Scyllaridia koenigi* Bell, 1857. This species was considered by Woods (1925, *Mon. palaeontol. Soc. Lond.* **1922-1923** : 39) and by Glaessner (1929, in *Fossilium Catalogus* **9** (41) : 375) to be referable to the genus at present known by the name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898.

Thus, on the basis of current taxonomic ideas, the generic name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, is twice over a subjective synonym of an older available generic name, first to *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, second, to *Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857. Under the Law of Priority, the correct name for this genus is therefore *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855. But the name *Pseudibacus* is not at present used as a generic name at all, being employed only to denote an immature stage (the so-called *Pseudibacus* stage), while the name *Scyllaridia* has never been used for any but fossil species, while even for these it was dropped by Woods (1925) in favour of the well-known name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898. As the name *Scyllarides* Gill is at present in general use, both for immature and adult forms of living species and also for fossil species, no useful purpose would be served—and, indeed, only unnecessary confusion caused—if the well-known name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, were to be replaced by either of the little-known names (*Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, and *Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857) referred to above. I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent confusion from arising in the nomenclature of this group, by using their plenary powers in such a way as to secure that the generic name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, is the oldest available generic name for the species at present referred to that genus. The concrete proposals which I therefore submit for consideration are that the Commission should :—

- (1) use their plenary powers to suppress the under-mentioned generic names for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—
 - (a) *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855 ;
 - (b) *Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857 ;
- (2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name : *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898 (type species, by original designation : *Scyllarus aequinoctialis* Lund, 1793) ;
- (3) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology* the generic names (a) *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, and (b) *Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857, suppressed under (1) above ;
- (4) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *aequinoctialis* Lund, 1793 (as published in the binominal combination *Scyllarus aequinoctialis*).

I should add, with reference to the decision by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, that in future the gender of every generic name added to the *Official List* is to be specified therein (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 341), that the gender of the generic name *Scyllarides* is masculine,



Holthuis, L. B. 1951. "Proposed use of the plenary powers to render the generic name " *Scyllarides* " Gill,1898 (Class Crustacea, order Decapoda) the oldest available name for the species currently referred thereto." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 2, 81–82.

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