

Rothschild and Hartert, 1907, but there are too many discrepancies in the description to permit synonymization of the two nominal species. For a discussion of the case see Mayr, 1941, *List of New Guinea Birds*: 207. It is evident that this nominal species is unidentifiable and the Commission is requested to place the name *Meliornis schistacea* on the Index of Rejected Names.

The present list was seen in 1955 by D. Amadon, J. Berlioz, H. G. Deignan, H. Friedmann, G. C. A. Junge, R. E. Moreau, A. L. Rand, F. Salomonsen, E. Stresemann, and C. A. Vaurie, all of whom concur in the above made proposal.

The Commission is herewith requested to suppress the names of the above listed nominal species for the purposes of the Law of Priority by exercise of its plenary powers and to place these names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF *SALAMANDRA*
ERYTHRONOTA RAFINESQUE, 1818. Z.N.(S.) 1467

(see volume 18, pages 221-222)

By James E. Huheey (*Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass., U.S.A.*)

I should like to express my support for the petition of Dr. Richard Highton for the conservation of *cinereus* Green, 1820, and the suppression of *erythronota* Rafinesque, 1818. The following may be of some interest in this matter:

"To Professor Green belongs the merit of having first observed and described the *Salamandra* now under consideration; for although he believed it was only a variety of an animal described by Rafinesque, yet he informed me that Rafinesque afterwards told him that the *Salamandra erythronota* was not the animal he (Rafinesque) had in view, and which, indeed, he had published, under some other name." (Holbrook, *N. Amer. Herp.* (ed. 1) 3: 115, 1838).

Thus although *erythronota* Rafinesque and *erythronota* Green are probably synonyms despite Rafinesque's beliefs (as stated by Holbrook), the fact that Rafinesque supposedly described Green's animal "under some other name" raises the possibility that there may be found yet another name, perhaps antedating *erythronota* Rafinesque. It seems best therefore not to discard *cinereus* in favour of another name which may be only temporarily valid.

By Hobart M. Smith (*Professor of Zoology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.*)

This is a clear-cut case for preservation of a consistently-used name for a widely-noted species. Preservation of the *status quo* in this case is exactly the type of role for which the plenary powers of the Commission can most usefully be exercised. Approval of the proposal is strongly urged.



Huheey, E and Smith, Hobart M. 1962. "Comments on the proposed suppression of *Salamandra erythronota* Rafinesque, 1818." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 19, 26.

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