

Case 3586***Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 (Insecta, Diptera, GLOSSINIDAE): proposed precedence over *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 (Diptera, GLOSSINIDAE), which is a widely used name for a well-established and medically important genus of tsetse flies. It is threatened by its infrequently used senior subjective synonym, *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830. It is proposed that *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 be conserved by reversing the precedence relative to *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 under the plenary power of the Commission, in the interest of nomenclatural stability.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; GLOSSINIDAE; *Glossina*; *Nemorhina*; *Glossina longipalpis*; *Nemorhina palpalis*; tsetse; Afrotropical.

1. Robineau-Desvoidy (1830, p. 389) proposed the generic name *Nemorhina* with one originally included species, *Nemorhina palpalis* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 (p. 390), which is the type by monotypy.

2. Wiedemann (1830, p. 253) proposed the generic name *Glossina* with one originally included species, *Glossina longipalpis* Wiedemann, 1830 (p. 254), which is the type by monotypy.

3. *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 is a well-established genus of tsetse flies and one of the more medically important Diptera, with an extensive medical and taxonomic literature. As intermediate hosts of particularly *Trypanosoma brucei* Plimmer & Bradford, 1899, tsetse flies are vectors of sleeping sickness in humans and nagana in cattle (for a bibliography of over 1500 references to *Glossina*, see Mulligan & Potts, 1970). *Glossina* includes over 30 taxonomically valid species-group names (e.g. Pont, 1980; Bisby et al., 2011), with extant species restricted in distribution to the Afrotropical Region [fossil species are known from North America and Europe, cf. Evenhuis (1994), Wedmann (2000)], and it is the type genus of the well-established family GLOSSINIDAE Theobald, 1903 (p. ii) (e.g. Sabrosky, 1999).

4. *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 is a genus-group name comprising nine taxonomically valid species-group names and is known only from the Afrotropical Region (e.g. Pont, 1980). It has occasionally been used as a valid subgenus of *Glossina*

(e.g. Pont, 1980; Sutton & Carlson, 1997) or its included species have been referred to as the *Glossina palpalis* group, and it is thus treated as a junior synonym of *Glossina* (e.g. Mohamed-Ahmed & Mihok, 1999).

5. Smith et al. (1980) recognized the potential dating conflict of the works by Robineau-Desvoidy (1830) and Wiedemann (1830), which has a direct bearing on the priority of these two genus-group names. An annotation under the reference for Wiedemann's 1830 work in that bibliography states (Smith et al., 1980, p. 1184): 'This part is considered to have been published prior to Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830. See Aubertin, 1933.' Aubertin (1933, p. 141, footnote) attempted to resolve the problem of the dating of these two works by stating 'According to Mr. C.D. Sherborn there is no contemporary evidence of the month in which either of these works appeared, but the former [Wiedemann (1830)] was reviewed in 'Isis' in June 1831, while the latter [Robineau-Desvoidy (1830)] was not reviewed in the same periodical until the following November. In the absence of conclusive evidence, it would appear reasonable to assume that the order in which the works were noticed in 'Isis' indicates the order in which they were published. Wiedemann's names are therefore given priority in this paper.' This order of priority of the two works was followed by Evenhuis et al. (1989, p. 947) where they cited Aubertin's (1933) article as justification. However, subsequent research revealed that Robineau-Desvoidy (1830) was actually published on 26 June 1830 (date recorded in the *Bibliographie de la France*) and that Wiedemann (1830) was published on 1 September 1830 (date of an advertisement by the publisher stating it was just published) (Evenhuis, 1997, pp. 821–822). This change in the relative priority of these two works affects common usage and stability of nomenclature for a number of names proposed in these two works that are currently treated in synonymy. The genus-group names *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 and *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 are two such names affected.

6. Following the Principle of Priority, *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 [26 June] becomes the senior synonym of *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 [1 September]. Acceptance of this priority would threaten the long-established usage of *Glossina* Wiedemann by placing it as a junior subjective synonym of *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy when the two are considered synonymous. The genus currently known as *Glossina* would become *Nemorhina* (with *Glossina* either in junior subjective synonymy or as the valid name for a subgenus of *Nemorhina*, depending on taxonomic views of the generic classification). Evenhuis et al. (2010, p. 117) noted the conflict of these two genera and stated that an application to reverse priority of these two genera was in preparation. This is the application alluded to.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 [1 September] precedence over *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 [26 June], whenever the two are considered to be synonyms of each other;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 [1 September] (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Glossina longipalpis* Wiedemann, 1830, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 [26 June], whenever the two are considered to be synonyms of each other;

- (b) *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 [26 June] (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Nemorhina palpalis* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 [1 September], whenever the two are considered to be synonyms of each other;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *longipalpis* Wiedemann, 1830, as published in the binomen *Glossina longipalpis* (specific name of the type species of *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830 [1 September]);
 - (b) *palpalis* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, as published in the binomen *Nemorhina palpalis* (specific name of the type species of *Nemorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 [26 June]);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name GLOSSINIDAE Theobald, 1903 (type genus *Glossina* Wiedemann, 1830);

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).



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