

Case 2707***Amphiporus* Ehrenberg, 1831 (Nemertea): proposed designation of *Planaria lactiflorea* Johnston, 1828 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the designation of *Planaria lactiflorea* Johnston, 1828 as the type species of the widely used nemertean genus *Amphiporus* Ehrenberg, 1831. The original type species by monotypy, *Polystemma albicans* Ehrenberg, 1828, has not been redescribed since 1831 and its status is doubtful, but *A. lactiflorea* (Johnston) is well characterized and is typical of *Amphiporus* as understood.

1. The genus *Amphiporus* Ehrenberg, 1831 (p. 63) was originally established with one included species: '*A. albicans* Nov. spec. Phytozoa Tabula IV. fig. II *Polystemma albicans*'. Ehrenberg had previously (1828, pl. 4, fig. 2, a-e) illustrated and named *Polystemma albicans*, but he did not describe the species until the text was published three years later; it is the type species of *Amphiporus* by monotypy. The second species of *Polystemma* illustrated in 1828, *P. adriaticum*, was retained in that genus in 1831; while it is clearly a nemertean the name has remained a nomen dubium.

2. *Amphiporus albicans* was found among corals in the Red Sea. Although the external features were described by Ehrenberg virtually no data on internal morphology were provided. Several authors have subsequently referred to the species (see below and discussion in Gibson & Crandall, 1989, pp. 454-455), but the name has not been applied to a recognized living taxon since Ehrenberg (1831) and there is no material extant.

3. Örsted (1844, p. 93) listed *Polystemma (Amphiporus) albicans*, mis-spelling the specific name, and Diesing (1850, p. 250) mentioned *Omatoplea albicans*, wrongly giving himself as the author (*Omatoplea* is an emendation of *Ommatoplea* Ehrenberg, 1828). McIntosh (1874, p. 155), in discussing taxa synonymous with *Planaria lactiflorea* Johnston, 1828 (p. 489), commented that *A. albicans* resembled *Nemertes pulchra* Johnston, 1837 (p. 536) in several external features. Hubrecht (1879) and Bürger (1895) uncertainly, and Carus (1885) positively, listed *A. albicans* as synonymous with *A. pulcher* (Johnston, 1837), but Joubin (1894) regarded *A. albicans* as a junior synonym of *Fasciola rosea* Müller, 1774 (p. 58). Bürger (1904), who recognized two subspecies of *A. pulcher*, considered *A. roseus* sensu Verrill (1892) as synonymous with *A. pulcher pulcher*. The taxonomic status of *A. roseus* is obscure (Gibson &

Crandall, 1989). Berg (1972a) transferred *A. pulcher* to the genus *Nipponnemertes* Friedrich, 1968 (type species *Amphiporus drepanophoroides* Griffin, 1898).

4. Since all that can be determined from Ehrenberg's (1828–1831) original work is that *Amphiporus albicans* is a nemertean, and possibly an enoplan, of uncertain systematic position, none of the synonymies suggested above, based entirely upon superficial resemblances of the taxa described, can be justified. We (Gibson & Crandall, 1989, p. 455) have concluded that *A. albicans* must be regarded as a nomen dubium.

5. *Amphiporus* is a long-standing and well known generic name, but it refers to a nominal taxon which is not defined by an adequately described type species (Gibson, 1985; Norenburg, 1986; Gibson & Crandall, 1989). This means that its relationship to other genera and the generic placement of species lack a sound basis, and discussion of the family AMPHIPORIDAE McIntosh, 1874 (p. 155) is similarly compromised.

6. Among the nominal species currently included in *Amphiporus* (see Gibson & Crandall, 1989) the oldest established is *Planaria lactiflorea* Johnston, 1828 (p. 489), first placed in *Amphiporus* by McIntosh (1873–1874). McIntosh (1873, p. 10; 1874, p. 158) regarded an earlier nominal taxon, *Lumbricus oxyurus* Pallas, 1766 (p. 146), as perhaps synonymous with *A. lactiflorea* (Johnston, 1828); he rejected the specific name *oxyurus* as 'objectionable'. Pallas' (1766) original description (pp. 146–147, pl. 11, figs. 7 and 8), though including some data on internal morphology, was considered to be totally incorrect by Bürger (1895, p. 7) and he rejected McIntosh's possible synonymy between *L. oxyurus* and *A. lactiflorea*. *L. oxyurus* was most likely an enoplan but assignment to a more precise taxon is impossible. The last known mention of *L. oxyurus* in the literature, as questionably synonymous with *Amphiporus lactiflorea*, was by Bürger (1904, p. 38). None of Johnston's material is in existence, but the anatomy and taxonomy of *A. lactiflorea*, the name used for the taxon by more than 100 authors in more than 300 publications since McIntosh's (1873–1874; pl. I; p. 156; pl. x) first usage, have been redescribed by Berg (1972b). *Amphiporus lactiflorea* is widely distributed and well known, with a range extending from the Mediterranean and northern coasts of Europe to the Atlantic and Arctic coasts of North America north of Cape Cod (Gibson, 1982; Gibson & Crandall, 1989). It is typical of *Amphiporus* as currently treated, and we propose that it be designated as the type species in place of the indeterminate *Polystemma albicans* Ehrenberg, 1828, his *A. albicans* of 1831.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Amphiporus* Ehrenberg, 1831, and to designate *Planaria lactiflorea* Johnston, 1828 as the type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Amphiporus* Ehrenberg, 1831 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) above *Planaria lactiflorea* Johnston, 1828;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *lactiflorea* Johnston, 1828, as published in the binomen *Planaria lactiflorea* (specific name of the type species of *Amphiporus* Ehrenberg, 1831).

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