

## OPINION 1650

### CYMATIINAE Iredale, 1913 (1854) (Mollusca, Gastropoda) and CYMATIINAE Walton in Hutchinson, 1940 (Insecta, Heteroptera): homonymy removed

#### Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Cymatia* Flor, 1860 is CYMATIA-.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) *Cymatium* [Röding], 1798 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Dall (1904) *Murex femorale* Linnaeus, 1758;
- (b) *Cymatia* Flor, 1860 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Kirkaldy (1898) *Sigara coleoptrata* Fabricius, 1777.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *femorale* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Murex femorale* (specific name of the type species of *Cymatium* [Röding], 1798);
- (b) *coleoptrata* Fabricius, 1777, as published in the binomen *Sigara coleoptrata* and as interpreted by the lectotype designated by Jansson (1986) (specific name of the type species of *Cymatia* Flor, 1860).

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

- (a) CYMATIINAE Iredale, 1913 (1854), type genus *Cymatium* [Röding], 1798;
- (b) CYMATIINAE Walton in Hutchinson, 1940, type genus *Cymatia* Flor, 1860 (spelling emended by the ruling in (1) above).

(5) The name CYMATIINAE Walton in Hutchinson, 1940 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (spelling emended to CYMATIINAE in (1) above).

#### History of Case 2547

An application to remove the homonymy of CYMATIINAE Iredale, 1913 (1854) (Mollusca) and CYMATIINAE Walton in Hutchinson, 1940 (Insecta) was received from Drs A. Jansson (*Zoological Museum, Helsinki, Finland*) & A.G. Beu (*New Zealand Geological Survey, Lower Hutt, New Zealand*) on 16 December 1985. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 47: 9–11 (March 1990).

An earlier application (Case 1939, BZN 28: 59–61) by Drs W.O. Cernohorsky & A.G. Beu sought to conserve usage of the gastropod name CYMATIIDAE Iredale, 1913 at family rank, rather than RANELLIDAE Gray, 1854. Several complications subsequently came to light and in 1986 those authors adopted RANELLIDAE as the name for the family. The name CYMATIINAE is in use for the subfamily which includes *Cymatium* [Röding], 1798, and in their 1986 paper Cernohorsky & Beu adopted it, mentioning Article 40b(i) of the Code. CYMATIINAE should be cited with the authorship and precedence Iredale, 1913 (1854). The subsequent application, by Jansson & Beu, sought only to remove the homonymy between CYMATIINAE Iredale, 1913 (1854) (Mollusca) and CYMATIINAE Walton in Hutchinson, 1940 (Insecta). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments were received.



### Decision of the Commission

On 6 March 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 47: 10. At the close of the voting period on 6 June 1991 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 24: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 4: Dupuis, Halvorsen, Heppell and Minelli.

Heppell commented: 'I vote against the application, firstly on a matter of detail, and secondly on a matter of principle. It is customary for family-group names added to the Official List to be entered in a form corresponding to their rank when originally established, with correction of original spelling where necessary. Thus in this case the names proposed for addition to the Official List should be CYMATIIDAE Iredale, not CYMATIINAE, and CYMATIAINI Walton (correction of CYMATIINI), not CYMATIAINAE. I see no reason (and none is proposed) for departing from this convention in this case. As categories within the family group are coordinate, homonymy would exist even if the two taxa were not both presently ranked as subfamilies. The applicants have indicated that the Code permits no real alternative to their proposal, as there would be no case for basing an alternative corixid subfamily name on *Cnethocymatia*. Although the consequences of a vote against this application have not been indicated, it must be assumed that the status quo would be maintained. As family-group names with the stem CYMATI- have coexisted in Gastropoda and Heteroptera for more than 50 years without any evidence of inconvenience being adduced (and no argument on such grounds is presented by the applicants) I would suspect that the change of stem of the corixid name would precipitate the very instability and inconvenience the applicants seek to prevent. Any future data search relating to the corixid subfamily would have to be for both CYMATIAINAE and CYMATIINAE, as complete abandonment of the latter spelling could never be assumed, and the occasional accidental capture of data pertaining to the gastropod subfamily might be preferred. Normally this would be eliminated by context or hierarchical search fields. The publication of this application seems particularly premature at the present time when extensive revision of the Code provisions concerning family-group names is expected in the near future. I would prefer to recommend that discrimination between the two names should be by the use of some formula such as CYMATIINAE (Mollusca) and CYMATIINAE (Insecta), rather than upset half a century of stable usage by a provision (Article 55) of the Code widely regarded as unsatisfactory'.

Minelli commented: 'The proposed name(s) CYMATIAINAE lacks the euphony of MEROPEIDAE and the like, as in the example to Article 55. I prefer resurrecting available synonyms to introducing new 'barbarous' spellings'.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*coleoptrata*, Sigara, Fabricius, 1777, *Genera insectorum eorumque characteres naturales secundum numerum, figuram,.....*, p. 298.

*Cymatia* Flor, 1860, *Die Rhynchoten Livlands*, vol. 1, p. 799.



CYMATIINAE Walton in Hutchinson, 1940, *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences*, **33**: 344 (as CYMATIINI).

CYMATIINAE Iredale, 1913, *The Nautilus*, **27**: 56.

*Cymatium* [Röding], 1798, *Museum Boltenianum, sive catalogus cimeliorum e tribus regnis naturae quae olim collegerat joa. Fried. Bolten...pars secunda*, p. 129.

*femorale*, *Murex*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 749.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Murex femorale* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of the nominal genus *Cymatium* [Röding], 1798:

Dall, W.H. 1904. *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*, **47**: 133.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Sigara coleoptrata* Fabricius, 1777 as the type species of the nominal genus *Cymatia* Flor, 1860:

Kirkaldy, G.W. 1898. *Entomologist*, **31**: 252.

The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotype of *Sigara coleoptrata* Fabricius, 1777:

Jansson, A. 1986. *Acta Entomologica Fennica*, **47**: 20.



International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1991. "Opinion 1650."  
*The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 48, 258–260.

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