

Miller and D.J. Williams for a ruling by the Commission that *Coccus buxi* Fonscolombe, 1834, be designated type-species of *Eriococcus* Targioni Tozzetti, 1868, and that the family-group name ERIOCOCCIDAE Cockerell, 1899 be given precedence over ACANTHOCOCCIDAE Signoret, 1875.

The proposers have adequately elucidated the fact that for the past 50 years ERIOCOCCIDAE - rather than ACANTHOCOCCIDAE - was in general usage, and is widely accepted to this date by the majority of scale-insect students. Thus it would appear - as pointed out recently by Danzig (1975, *Ent. Obozr.* vol. 54: 62-81) - that the stability in usage of ERIOCOCCIDAE might be sufficiently endorsed by article 40 a of the Code. I agree with Danzig that the "general acceptance" (Code, article 40 a (i)) is clearly evident at the level of the family-group name. However it is not so - as it was shown by Miller and Williams - regarding the type-species of *Eriococcus*, and therefore their suggestion to designate a type-species should be recommended.

I am confident that the adoption of this application will be a significant contribution to relieve the scale-insect nomenclature from the burden of erroneous confusion which became established in this field during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and therefore increase its stability and universality.

COMMENT SUPPORTING APPLICATION FOR SUPPRESSION AND VALIDATION OF ELAPID SNAKE NAMES. Z.N.(S.) 2128

(See vol. 33: 73-84)

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The application by Smith and Smith (1976) documents a most complex and unusual nomenclatural situation of great zoological and medical significance. We endorse and support this application in its entirety. Favourable action on the requests will preserve nomenclatural stability which is one of the primary aims of the Code. The uniqueness of the present situation is elucidated in a most scholarly manner in the original application. Its importance should not be underestimated because it is concerned with the stability of the nomenclature of some of the most venomous snakes on earth. Failure to use the plenary powers as requested by Smith and Smith (1976) could have the extraordinary effect, as noted by McDowell (1968) and by Smith and Smith (1976), of causing the loss of human life. We unequivocally believe that the family-group name ELAPIDAE should be officially associated with proteroglyphous snakes, and urge the Commission to support the application of Smith and Smith (1976).

LITERATURE CITED

- McDOWELL, S.B., 1968. Affinities of the snakes usually called *Elaps lacteus* and *E. dorsalis*. *Zool. J. Linn. Soc. London*, vol. 47: 561-578.
SMITH, H.M., and SMITH, R.B., 1976. Request for suppression and validation of names related to the Elapidae (Reptilia: Serpentes). *Bull. Zool. Nomencl.* vol. 33: 73-84.



Funk, Richard S. and Brown, Lauren E. 1977. "Comment supporting application for suppression and validation of elapid snake names Z N. (S.) 2128." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 34, 8–8.

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