

COMMENT ON THE APPLICATION CONCERNING  
*SIPHONOPHORA* BRANDT, 1837 (DIPLOPODA). Z.N.(S.) 2168

(see vol. 33: 218-220)

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In view of the utter obscurity of the antecedent *Siphonophora* Fischer, 1823, and the wrenching nomenclatural dislocations that would result from the loss of *Siphonophora* Brandt, 1837, as a generic name in Diplopoda, it is highly desirable that the Commission react favourably to Dr Jeekel's suite of proposals. In addition to his arguments, it may be noted that, since 1969, an Order Siphonophorida has existed to accommodate the families SIPHONOPHORIDAE and SIPHONORHINIDAE.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF *RHINIODON*  
SMITH, 1828 (PISCES) IN FAVOUR OF *RHINCODON* SMITH, 1829 AS  
THE GENERIC NAME OF THE WHALE SHARK. Z.N.(S.) 2090

(see vol. 32: 163-167)

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The request of Robins and Lea to suppress the generic name *Rhiniodon* Smith, 1828 in favour of *Rhincodon* Smith, 1829 is to be preferred to the alternative presented by Hubbs, Compagno, and Follett (vol. 33: 70-71). The species involved, the whale shark, is the largest of cold blooded vertebrates and thus receives considerable attention from a wide area of human interest as well as from systematic ichthyologists.

Variation in usage of each name has been well documented by the above authors and Bigelow and Schroeder, 1948 (*Mem. Sears Fnd. Mar. Res.*, vol. 1: 189-195), but they have not emphasized that for the last 30 years *Rhincodon* has been used predominantly at a time when both the general and technical ichthyological literature has been expanding greatly. This literature includes the three recent monographs on sharks: Gilbert, Mathewson & Rall, 1967 (*Sharks, Skates, and Rays*: 45, 529; Lineaweaver & Bakus, 1969 (*The Natural History of Sharks*: 125-129); and Budker, 1971 (*The Life of Sharks*: 116, 117). Twelve frequently used texts and references from my shelf (in addition to the three shark monographs listed above) mention the whale shark and eight use *Rhincodon*, namely Herald, 1961 (*Living Fishes of the World*: 22-23 [and 1962 edition revised, according to Myers, Follett & Gosline, 1974 *Copeia* (1): 292]; Marshall, 1965 (*The Life of Fishes*: 101, 353, 402); American Fisheries Society, 1970 (*A List of Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States and Canada*, 3rd ed.: 10, 131); Lindberg, 1971 (*Fishes of the World. A Key to families and a check list*, in Russian: 51; English translation: 57, 1974); Wheeler, 1975 (*Fishes of the World. An Illustrated*



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