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4. The International Commission is therefore requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to conserve the unjustified emendation *Typus* Sellards, 1909 by the suppression of *Tupus* Sellards 1906 for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology; the generic name *Typus* Sellards, 1909 (gender: masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Tupus* [sic] *permianus* Sellards, 1906.
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology; the specific name *permianus*, 1906, as published in the binomen *Tupus permianus* (type-species of *Typus* Sellards, 1909).
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology; the family name TYPIDAE Handlirsch, 1919 (type-genus *Tupus* Sellards, 1906).
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Tupus* Sellards, 1906 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above).

COMMENT ON PROPOSED CONSERVATION OF THE GENERIC NAME
TYPUS SELLARDS, 1909 (INSECTA, PROTODONATA). Z.N.(S.) 2359

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I wish to oppose the proposed conservation (*Bull. zool. Nom.* 37(4), p. 194) of the genus-group name *Typus* Sellards 1909 on two grounds, one commonplace and one possibly unique. Neither is strictly entomological.

1. The name *Typus* should not be conserved because *Tupus* Sellards, 1906 has priority, was validly proposed, is not preoccupied and is objectively synonymous. There is no evidence in the original 1906 publication of Sellards of a typographical error as the name is used a number of times in the paper. A validly proposed genus-group name cannot be changed, even by its original author, on grounds of 'inappropriateness' or other second thoughts, unless preoccupied (*Int. Code Art.* 18a, 19). The name *Tupus* is a transliteration into Latin of the Greek word τυπος, presumably meaning, in this case, an outline or impression. While the *Code* (Appendix B) recommends upsilon be transliterated as y, this letter was not used in classical Latin until the 1st Century BC. Can one argue that *Typus* is a more

appropriate transliteration? That this subsequent emendation should have been widely used, I believe in error, by many authors since 1909 is beside the point. Whalley (1980) has now demonstrated the error, at my instigation, and Sellards' original spelling *Tupus* should, I submit, be allowed to stand.

2. Even if otherwise allowable, however, I believe the name *Typus* to be objectionable on other, possibly unique, grounds, in that the word is a technical term in zoological nomenclature. In German and other languages *typus* means a type specimen (or species). Every effort should, in my view, be made to avoid 'homonymy' between technical terms in zoological taxonomy and genus-group names. Although there is no ruling on the subject, I wonder what the Commission's attitude would be if someone were so ill-advised as to propose *Genus* as a genus-group name in Zoology. It would not be long, I suspect, before its suppression as undesirable was achieved! I submit that *Typus* is in the same category, and the opportunity to reject it, which would not require application of the plenary powers, should now be taken. It is significant, perhaps, that Appendix D, para. 8 of the *Code* recommends that the words *typus* and *typicus* should not be used as new names, as they are liable to cause confusion.

I therefore request the Commission to place the genus-group name *Typus* Sellards, 1909 on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology, and to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-group names in Zoology the name TYPIDAE Handlirsch, 1919.

REFERENCE

WHALLEY, P.E.S., 1980. *Bull. Br. Mus. (nat. Hist.)*, (Geol.), vol. 34 (4), pp. 285-287.



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