

Case 2797***Scylliorhinus atlanticus* Koefoed, 1927 (currently *Apristurus atlanticus*; Chondrichthyes, Carcharhiniformes): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of *Apristurus atlanticus* (Koefoed, 1927), which is currently in use for an Atlantic scylliorhinid (catshark). The name is threatened by the unused senior synonym *Scyllium? spinacipellitum* Vaillant, 1888.

1. Vaillant (1888, p. 60, pl. 1, figs. 3, 3a and 4) described two species of scylliorhinid sharks, *Scyllium? spinacipellitum* and *S. acutidens*, from deep waters off the Canary Islands. The types of these two species (MNHN 1884-384 and MNHN 1884-385) are preserved in the collection of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. Close examination of the type specimen (MNHN 1884-384) of *S. spinacipellitum* caused us (Nakaya & Séret, 1989, p. 977) to synonymize Vaillant's species with *Scylliorhinus atlanticus* Koefoed, 1927 (p. 18). It may be noted in passing that *Scylliorhinus* is an old unjustified emendation of *Scylliorhinus* Blainville, 1816.

2. The specific name *spinacipellitum* has never been used as a valid name since 1888. Bertin (1939, p. 68, footnote 1) mentioned the name in a catalogue of the type specimens in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle. Fowler (1967, p. 356) doubtfully included *S. spinacipellitum* in the synonymy of *Scylliorhinus canicula* (Linnaeus, 1758), and that synonymy was followed by Compagno (1984, p. 358; 1988, p. 122). We have been unable to find any other mention of the name *spinacipellitum*.

3. The name *Apristurus atlanticus* (Koefoed, 1927) has been used in such taxonomic works as Bigelow & Schroeder (1944, p. 22; 1948, p. 220), Bigelow, Schroeder & Springer (1953, p. 217), Cadenat & Maul (1966, p. 778), Springer (1966, p. 613; 1979, p. 14), Taylor (1972, p. 71), Nakaya (1975, p. 23), Cadenat & Blache (1981, p. 185), Compagno (1984, p. 261; 1988, p. 168), Gubanov, Kondurin & Myagkov (1986, p. 92) and also in popular books such as Ellis (1983), Reader's Digest (1986) and Springer & Gold (1989). Hence the name *A. atlanticus* is commonly used whereas *S. spinacipellitum* has almost never been mentioned. Use of the name *S. spinacipellitum* would cause confusion and disturb the stability of nomenclature for this species.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:
 - (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *spinacipellitum* Vaillant, 1888, as published in the binomen *Scyllium? spinacipellitum*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *atlanticus* Koefoed, 1927, as published in the binomen *Scylliorhinus atlanticus*;
 - (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *spinacipellitum* Vaillant, 1888, as published in the binomen *Scyllium? spinacipellitum* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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