

OPINION 664

AMPHISBAENA DUBIA RATHKE, 1863 (REPTILIA) : SUPPRESSION
UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *dubia* Rathke, 1863, as published in the binomen *Amphisbaena dubia*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The specific name *dubia* Müller, 1924, as published in the binomen *Amphisbaena dubia*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name No. 1914.

(3) The specific name *dubia* Rathke, 1863, as published in the binomen *Amphisbaena dubia* (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name No. 758.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1466)

The present case was submitted to the office of the Commission by Dr. Carl Gans in September 1960. It was sent to the printer on 8 December 1960 and was published on 16 June 1961 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **18** : 220. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51–56) and to two herpetological serials. Dr. Gans's proposals were supported by Professor Hobart M. Smith (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **19** : 22).

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 31 May 1962 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (62)20 either for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **18** : 220. The following note by the Secretary to the Commission was circulated with the Voting Paper : "It is possible that *A. dubia* could be automatically rejected under Art. 23b of the Code. Rather than put Dr. Gans to the labour of searching the literature to find out whether *A. dubia* has been used in the last 50 years, however, with the consequent waste of time, I have considered it best to submit this case to the Commission in its original form, i.e., as a proposal that *A. dubia* should be suppressed under the plenary powers". At the close of the prescribed Voting Period on 31 August 1962 the state of the voting was as follows :

Affirmative Votes—twenty-four (24), received in the following order : Hering, China, Boschma, Binder, Holthuis, Mayr, Riley, Vokes, Lemche, do Amaral, Munroe, Stoll, Bonnet, Brinck, Alvarado, Key, Uchida, Borchsenius, Obruchev, Tortonese, Hemming, Jaczewski, Mertens, Kühnelt.

Negative Votes—none (0).

On Leave of Absence—one (1) : Prantl.

Voting Papers not returned—two (2) : Evans, Poll.

Commissioners Bradley and Miller returned late affirmative votes. The following comments were made by Commissioners in returning their votes :

Dr. Per Brinck (4.vii.62) : Since Gans says (p.220, para. 3) that : “ the name has been referred to in only a single review paper since that time ” (i.e. 1863), I wonder if suppression under the plenary powers is necessary, but anyhow, I vote in favour.

Dr. R. Alvarado (16.vii.62) : The action proposed seems to me preferable to regarding *A. dubia* Rathke, 1863, as a “ nomen oblitum ”, because Rathke’s work is a well-known paper for the anatomists, and it may be that the name *dubia* has sometime been used.

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on the Official List and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion :

dubia, *Amphisbaena*, Müller, 1924, *Mitt. zool. Mus. Berlin* 2(1) : 86

dubia, *Amphisbaena*, Rathke, 1863, *Abh. math.-phys. Classe Königl. -bayer. Akad. Wiss. München* 9(1) : 128

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (62)20 were cast as set out above, that the proposal set out in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 664.

W. E. CHINA

Acting Secretary

*International Commission on
Zoological Nomenclature*

London

17 September 1962



International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1963. "Amphisbaena dubia Rathke, 1863 (Reptilia) : suppression under the Plenary Powers." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 20, 197–198.

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