

OPINION 2143 (Case 3306)

Drosophila elegans Bock & Wheeler, 1972 (Insecta, Diptera): specific name conserved

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the specific name *Drosophila elegans* Bock & Wheeler, 1972 is conserved for a species of fruit fly by suppression of its unused senior homonym *Drosophila elegans* Statz, 1940.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; *Drosophila*; *Drosophila elegans*; *Drosophila statzi*; fruit flies; phylogenetic studies.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the specific name *elegans* Statz, 1940, as published in the binomen *Drosophila elegans*, is suppressed for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *elegans* Bock & Wheeler, 1972, as published in the binomen *Drosophila elegans*;
 - (b) *statzi* Ashburner & Bächli, 2004, as published in the binomen *Drosophila statzi* (replacement name for *Drosophila elegans* Statz, 1940).
- (3) The name *elegans* Statz, 1940, as published in the binomen *Drosophila elegans* and suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3306

An application to conserve the specific name *Drosophila elegans* Bock & Wheeler, 1972, for a species of fruit fly important in phylogenetic studies, by suppression of an unused senior homonym *Drosophila elegans* Statz, 1940 and establishment of the substitute name *Drosophila statzi*, was received from Michael Ashburner (*Genetics Department, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K.*) and Gerhard Bächli (*Zoologisches Museum, Universität Zürich-Irchel, Zürich, Switzerland*) on 29 October 2003. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 61: 165–166 (September 2004). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2005 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 61: 166. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2005 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 18: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Calder, Fortey, Halliday, Kerzhner, Macpherson, Mahnert, Mawatari, Minelli, Ng, Nielsen, Papp, Rosenberg, Song and Štys.

Negative votes – 3: Lamas, Patterson and van Tol.

Voting against, Lamas commented: 'I believe that stability of nomenclature would be better served by partially suppressing the name *Drosophila elegans* Statz, 1940 for the purposes of the Principle of Homonymy, but not for those of the Principle of Priority, and thus conserving the name *Drosophila elegans* Bock & Wheeler, 1972. In other words, by stating that *Drosophila elegans* Statz, 1940 and *Drosophila elegans* Bock & Wheeler, 1972 are not to be regarded as primary homonyms, there is no need to propose a replacement name either for *D. elegans* Statz, 1940 or *D. elegans* Bock & Wheeler, 1972. Furthermore, I find it disturbing that the replacement name *Drosophila statzi*, proposed by Ashburner & Bächli in their application, was allowed to appear in print before the Commission voted in this case'. Also voting against, van Tol commented: 'A new name for the recently described *D. elegans* Bock & Wheeler will not cause confusion'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- elegans*, *Drosophila*, Bock & Wheeler, 1972, *The Drosophila melanogaster species group*, p. 28.
elegans, *Drosophila*, Statz, 1940, *Palaeontographica*, 91A: 152.
statzi, *Drosophila*, Ashburner & Bächli, 2004, *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 61: 166.