

combined with the obscure history of *Potamillus* makes such a ruling consistent with the Commission's trend to discourage the rejuvenation of long forgotten, poorly defined names and to conserve names well established in the literature. The early history of unionid taxonomy, especially in North America, is characterized by imprecise descriptions and definitions, and duplicity. Though many names long in use are sometimes no less obscure than others, it is because of the enormous literature that has developed on this group that it seems most beneficial and constructive to conserve those which have become most established.

**Comments on the proposed conservation of *Bruchus* Linnaeus, 1767, *Ptinus* Linnaeus, 1767 and *Mylabris* Fabricius, 1775 (Insecta, Colcoptera)**

(Case 2618; see BZN 45: 194–196)

(1) I.M. Kerzhner & A.G. Kirejtshuk

*Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences, Leningrad 199034, U.S.S.R.*

We support Borowiec's proposals but some corrections should be made to the application. The correct authorship of *Bruchus* and *Mylabris*, sensu Geoffroy (1762), is not 'Müller, 1764' but Geoffroy in Müller (1764) (cf. para. 2 of the application; see also comments by Kerzhner in BZN 38: 6 and 46: 42). The more important correction, however, is that Pierce (1916, p. 463) designated *Laria salicis* Scopoli, 1763 (p. 22) as the type species of *Laria* Scopoli, 1763 (p. 21). Pierce misquoted Bedel (1901) as having previously designated *salicis* as the type; however, Pierce's designation is valid (Article 69a(iv) of the Code). As mentioned in the application (para. 3), *salicis* Scopoli, 1763 was listed by Linnaeus (1767, p. 604) as a synonym of *Bruchus pisi* (Linnaeus, 1758), which was followed by Schrank (1781, p. 100). *Laria* is therefore a senior subjective synonym of *Bruchus* Linnaeus, 1767, not of *Pria* Stephens, 1829 (p. 7) in the NITIDULIDAE, as Bridwell's (1932) designation implied (para. 3 of the application). *Pria* is a large (more than 80 nominal species) and widely distributed (nearly all the Old World) genus (type species *Silpha truncatella* Marsham, 1802 (p. 123) by monotypy, a junior subjective synonym of *Laria dulcamarae* Scopoli, 1763 (see Erichson, 1843, p. 308; Cooper, 1982, p. 328)). *Laria* and LARIIDAE, rather than *Bruchus* and BRUCHIDAE, were used for the seed beetles by some authors: Bedel (1901, p. 343), Ganglbauer (1906) and Reitter (1912, pp. 218–220), but in recent times *Laria* has very rarely appeared as a valid name (the only exceptions are Kloet & Hincks (1945, p. 185) and Silfverberg (1979, p. 42); in both *Laria* was adopted as the senior synonym of *Pria*). In order to preserve usage of *Bruchus* Linnaeus, 1767 we propose that suppression of *Laria* Scopoli, 1763 should be added to the proposals on BZN 45: 195. Suppression of *Laria* (to conserve *Pria*) has previously been suggested by Cooper (1982, p. 329).

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Laria* Scopoli, 1763 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Laria* Scopoli, 1763, as suppressed in (1) above.

## Additional references

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(2) *Anthea* Gentry*Secretariat, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*

Geoffroy (1762, p. 266) described three species in *Mylabris* but the names were non-binominal. Müller (1764) did not include species in the genus. The next use of *Mylabris* was by Geoffroy in Fourcroy (1785, p. 112) and three nominal species were included: *crucigera*, *fusca* and *sericea*. Bedel (1901, p. 358) included *Mylabris crucigera* Fourcroy, 1785 in the synonymy of *Bruchus pisi* Linnaeus, 1767. As noted in Borowiec's application (para. 5), Bridwell (1932) designated *Bruchus pisi* Linnaeus, 1767 (the senior synonym) as the type species of *Mylabris* sensu Geoffroy. *Mylabris* sensu Geoffroy (1762) is thus a senior subjective synonym of *Bruchus* Linnaeus, 1767, as stated in para. 5 of Borowiec's application (and not 'objective' as stated in para. 2).

The family BRUCHIDAE includes over 900 species, in which the larvae mostly live in seeds of Leguminosae causing great damage to stored products. They have been carried from country to country in cargoes and now occur almost world wide. As stated by Borowiec (para. 2), the name *Bruchus* Linnaeus is in wide usage and has appeared in a large number of agricultural, food-storage and food-processing papers, as well as taxonomic works, as is demonstrated by the following representative list: Arnett (1968, pp. 953–955, 957), Alfieri (1976, pp. 238–242), Arora (1977, pp. 18–22), Gressitt & Hornabrook (1977, p. 58), Silfverberg (1979, p. 61) Carne et al. (1980, p. 9), M.A.F.F. (1980) and Özar & Genç (1987).

## Additional references

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