

**OPINION 2222 (Case 3335)*****Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 (Insecta, Coleoptera): masculine gender of the genus fixed**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the stem of the genus *Trachys* is *Trache-*, and the name *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 should be treated as of masculine gender. The family name TRACHISIDAE Laporte, 1835 is ruled to be an incorrect original spelling and is placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology. The family-group names TRACHYINI Gavoy, 1901, TRACHYDINI Reitter, 1911, TRACHYNI Kerremans, 1893 and TRACHYNINI Kraatz, 1869 are placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology as incorrectly derived from *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; BUPRESTIDAE; *Trachys*; *Trachys minutus*; gender; leaf-mining jewel beetle.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that:
  - (a) the stem of the genus *Trachys* is *Trache-*;
  - (b) the gender of the name *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 is masculine.
- (2) The name *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Westwood (1838) *Buprestis minuta* Linnaeus, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *minuta* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Buprestis minuta* (specific name of the type species of *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name TRACHEIDAE Laporte, 1835 (type genus *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801), a corrected original spelling from TRACHISIDAE, as ruled in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.
- (5) The following names, incorrectly derived from *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801, are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:
  - (a) TRACHISIDAE Laporte, 1835 (an incorrect original spelling);
  - (b) TRACHYINI Gavoy, 1901;
  - (c) TRACHYDINI Reitter, 1911;
  - (d) TRACHYNI Kerremans, 1893;
  - (e) TRACHYNINI Kraatz, 1869.

**History of Case 3335**

An application to validate the feminine gender of the generic name *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 for a common and widespread leaf-mining jewel beetle and the form of derivation of the family-group names based on *Trachys* was received from S. Bílý (*National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic*) and V. Kubáň (*Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic*) on 29 November 2004. After correspondence the case was published

in BZN 63: 172–176. The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. On 1 June 2007 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals set out in BZN 63: 173–174. After discussion between the Commissioners and the Executive Secretary, it was agreed that the voting on Case 3335 should be postponed. A supportive comment on this case was published in BZN 64: 66. Adverse comments on this case were published in BZN 63: 273–274; 64: 64–66, 187–191 (the latter comment with an alternative set of proposals).

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 June 2008 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 63: 173–174 and BZN 64: 190. At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2008 the votes were as follows:

Proposals in BZN 63: 173–174

Affirmative vote – 1: Lim.

Negative votes – 16: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Pape, Papp, Rosenberg, van Tol and Zhang.

No vote was received from Ng. Minelli, Patterson, Pyle and Štys were on leave of absence.

Proposals in BZN 64: 190

Affirmative votes – 15: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Pape, Papp, Rosenberg, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative vote – 1: Lim.

Bouchet split his vote, voting FOR the proposals BZN 64: 190 with the exception of proposal 5 (b)–(e).

No vote was received from Ng. Minelli, Patterson, Pyle and Štys were on leave of absence.

Although Bouchet voted FOR Proposals 1–5 (a), he objected to placing the following names on the Official Lists: TRACHYINI Gavoy, 1901; TRACHYDINI Reitter, 1911; TRACHYNI Kerremans, 1893; TRACHYNINI Kraatz, 1869. He said that under Article 33.3 (Incorrect subsequent spellings) and Article 36.1 (Principle of Coordination), these names are mere variations of TRACHEIDAE Laporte, 1835. They do not have their own nomenclatural availability; they do not have their own author and date; they cannot be treated as separate names.

In the course of the discussion, Kerzhner commented that *Trachys* was proposed by Fabricius as feminine with genitive *trachydis* as different from the Greek adjective *trachys*, masculine with the genitive *tracheos* (*tracheus*); it was hardly probable that Fabricius had in mind this adjective meaning rough for these smooth, shiny beetles. Kerzhner said he did not think that Fabricius, who wrote 'in an acceptable Latin', simply erred. Of 33 Fabrician generic names in Hemiptera, 16 are identical to Latin geographic names and others probably originate from such names with the change of a few letters (e.g. *Miris* from *Myris*). Kerzhner said it is possible that Fabricius formed his *Trachys* from *Trachis* (an ancient Greek city) and considered it feminine and with genitive ending in *-ydis* as in the words *chlamys* or *emys*. Kerzhner commented further that the current masculine usage of *Trachys* is about three-fold greater than feminine usage. However, he did not see the need for the Commission to address all 430 other names ending in *-ys*.

**Original references**

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*minuta*, *Buprestis*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, p. 410.

TRACHISIDAE Laporte, 1835, *Revue Entomologique*, **3**: 166.

TRACHYDINI Reitter, 1911, *Fauna Germanica. Die Käfer des Deutschen Reiches. Nach der analytische Methode bearbeitet*, vol. 3, p. 180.

TRACHYINI Gavoy, 1901, *Bulletin de la Société d'Études Scientifiques de l' Aude*, **12**: 113.

TRACHYNI Kerremans, 1893, *Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique*, **37**: 121.

TRACHYNINI Kraatz, 1869, *Verzeichniss der Käfer Deutschlands*, p. 36.

*Trachys* Fabricius, 1801, *Systema Eleutheratorum secundum ordines, genera, species: adjectis synonymis, locis, observationibus, descriptionibus. Tomus II*, p. 218.