



NOTA BREVE:

To spell or not to spell: again on *Rowlandius jarmillae* Armas & Cockendolpher, 2001 (Schizomida: Hubbardiidae)

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TO SPELL OR NOT TO SPELL: AGAIN ON *ROWLANDIUS JARMILLAE* ARMAS & COCKENDOLPHER, 2001 (SCHIZOMIDA: HUBBARDIIDAE)

Victor Fet

Recently, Armas & Cockendolpher (2001) described a new species *Rowlandius jarmillae*, with the following dedication: "This species is named for Dra. Jarmilla Kukulová-Peck, in recognition of her contributions..." Later, I (Fet, 2002) published a correction to the original spelling of *Rowlandius jarmillae*, arguing that the correct spelling of the first name should be *jarmilae*, from the name Jarmila (of a Czech origin), with one "l". Indeed, Dr. J. Kukulová-Peck spells her name with one "l" (see e.g. Kukulová-Peck, 1997). I concluded then that "the spelling "*jarmillae*" is "demonstrably incorrect" as required by Article 32.5 ("Spellings that must be corrected") of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999), and constitutes an "incorrect original spelling".

However, Dr. W. Pulawski (pers. comm.) recently pointed my attention to the fact that, as the Article 32.5.1 states, spelling must be corrected only if "there is in the original publication itself, without recourse to any external source of information, clear evidence of an inadvertent error, such as a lapsus calami or a copyist's or printer's error". Armas & Cockendolpher (2001) *did* misspell the name in their dedication as "Jarmilla". Nevertheless, Fet (2002) clearly *used* external evidence (i.e. evidence outside of the original text of Armas & Cockendolpher publication) to establish correct spelling of the name, and therefore the correction of the species' name spelling should not have been made. Thus, *Rowlandius jarmillae* Armas et Cockendolpher, 2001 is a correct original spelling, while *Rowlandius jarmilae* Fet, 2002, **syn. nov.** is an *unjustified emendation* and a junior objective synonym of the name in its original spelling (Article 33.2.3).

This story, being very straightforward, however, makes me sad – although I fully understand the requirement for the stability of nomenclature imposed by the Code. Under Examples supplied in the Article 32.5.1 we find: "If an author stated he/she were naming a new species after Linnaeus, but the name was printed as *ninnaei*, it would be an incorrect original spelling to be corrected to *linnaei*." The example, of course, pictures an extreme situation – if a careless author does *not* state clearly "I name it after Linnaeus", the legalistic etymology of the Code will err on the side of a phantasmic fellow by the name of Ninnaeus. To a layperson (Latinization of the names taken from the non-Latin script languages aside) it appears reasonable and logical that, once an *obvious* misspelling is noticed (such as *ninnaei* or *jarmillae*), the case could be researched and corrected as necessary. I would see no trouble nowadays, especially if the author is alive and accessible, for such a correction. We are often told that a zoological name is "just a combination of letters" – but the people's names are not. Unfortunately, the Code in such cases runs at odds with the common sense. All I can say is that if we wish to honor somebody by naming a taxon after them, we need to be very careful to spell their name correctly, otherwise the inadvertent "mutation" will be frozen forever by the uncompromising Article 32.5.1.

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