

**Case 3151**

**RHOPALURUSINAE Bücherl, 1971 (Arachnida, Scorpiones, BUTHIDAE): proposed conservation as the correct spelling to remove homonymy with RHOPALURIDAE Stunkard, 1937 (Orthonectida)**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Articles 29 and 55.3.1 of the Code, is to remove homonymy between the family-group names RHOPALURINAE Bücherl, 1971 (family BUTHIDAE, Scorpiones) and RHOPALURIDAE Stunkard, 1937 (phylum Orthonectida) by changing the spelling of the junior homonym. To date both names have had little use, but the name RHOPALURINAE is likely to be used in future taxonomic revisions of the BUTHIDAE. Before this junior homonym becomes adopted in the literature, it is proposed that the whole of the generic name of the type genus (*Rhopalurus* Thorell, 1876) of RHOPALURINAE should be used to form the emended name RHOPALURUSINAE Bücherl, 1971, leaving the orthonectid senior homonym (RHOPALURIDAE Stunkard, 1937) unchanged.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Orthonectida; Arachnida; Scorpiones; RHOPALURIDAE; RHOPALURUSINAE; *Rhopalura*; *Rhopalurus*; *Rhopalura ophiocomae*; *Rhopalurus laticauda*.

1. The family name RHOPALURIDAE Stunkard, 1937 (p. 6) (phylum Orthonectida) is based on the name of its type genus, *Rhopalura* Giard, 1877 (p. 813) (type species *Rhopalura ophiocomae* Giard, 1877, by monotypy). Giard (1877, pp. 812–813) described the animal in question and just after the description wrote ‘Je donne à cet animal étrange le nom de *Rhopalura Ophiocomae*’ (p. 813). The name RHOPALURIDAE was introduced by Stunkard (1937, p. 6) as a replacement name for the family called ‘ORTHONECTIDAE’ by Hartmann (1925). Hartmann’s family name was not available because it was not based on any included genus, but merely derived from the phylum name Orthonectida Giard, 1877. The name RHOPALURIDAE was later also proposed by Caullery (1961, p. 703), but Stunkard (1937) has priority as its author. However, family-group names are rarely used in the latest treatments of the phylum Orthonectida (e.g. Kozloff, 1992; Slyusarev & Miller, 1998).

2. The subfamily name RHOPALURINAE Bücherl, 1971 (p. 325) (Scorpiones, family BUTHIDAE) was based on the type genus *Rhopalurus* Thorell, 1876 (p. 9) (type species *R. laticauda* Thorell, 1876 (p. 9) by original designation). *Rhopalurus* is a well-known and diverse genus of large, medically important scorpions from South America and the Caribbean (Kraepelin, 1899; Mello-Leitão, 1945; Bücherl, 1971; Lourenço, 1982, 1986; Sissom, 1990; Fet & Lowe, 2000). The name RHOPALURINAE is an available name under the Code and has no synonyms, but it has not been used in the literature since its introduction, mainly because the subfamilial structure of BUTHIDAE is generally unresolved. Recent treatments of this family have avoided using the subfamily category altogether (Francke, 1985; Sissom, 1990; Fet & Lowe, 2000). However, the name RHOPALURINAE is likely to be used in further taxonomic revisions of the BUTHIDAE.

3. According to Article 29.3, *Rhopalura* Giard, 1877 and *Rhopalurus* Thorell, 1876 have the same stem (*Rhopalur-*). Therefore, according to Article 55.3, RHOPALURIDAE Stunkard, 1937 and RHOPALURINAE Bücherl, 1971 are homonyms in the family-group category and the case must be brought to the Commission for a ruling to remove homonymy.

4. The most straightforward way to remove the homonymy between these two names would be to use the whole of the generic name *Rhopalurus* Thorell, 1876 as the stem for the scorpion family-group name, thereby emending the name RHOPALURINAE Bücherl, 1971 to RHOPALURUSINAE Bücherl, 1971. The latter form is preferred by the Code as a means of avoidance of homonymy in family-group names (see Recommendation 29.6A).

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Rhopalurus* Thorell, 1876 is *Rhopalurus-*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *Rhopalurus* Thorell, 1876, type species by original designation *Rhopalurus laticauda* Thorell, 1876 (Arachnida);
  - (b) *Rhopalura* Giard, 1877, type species by monotypy *Rhopalura ophiocoma* Giard, 1877 (Orthonectida);
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *laticauda* Thorell, 1876, as published in the binomen *Rhopalurus laticauda* (specific name of the type species of *Rhopalurus* Thorell, 1876) (Arachnida);
  - (b) *ophiocoma* Giard, 1877, as published in the binomen *Rhopalura ophiocoma* (specific name of the type species of *Rhopalura* Giard, 1877) (Orthonectida);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) RHOPALURIDAE Stunkard, 1937, type genus *Rhopalura* Giard, 1877 (Orthonectida);
  - (b) RHOPALURUSINAE Bücherl, 1971, type genus *Rhopalurus* Thorell, 1876 (spelling emended by the ruling in (1) above) (Arachnida);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name RHOPALURINAE Bücherl, 1971 (an incorrect original spelling of RHOPALURUSINAE as ruled in (1) above) (Arachnida).

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