

OPINION 2037 (Cases 3120 and 3120a)

LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) (Scorpiones): adopted as a valid substitute name for ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879 in order to remove homonymy with ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 (Insecta, Odonata)

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the scorpion family name LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) is to have precedence over ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879, which is a homonym of the widely used damselfly name ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 (Odonata). The type genus of LIOCHELIDAE is *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833, which is in wide use as the valid senior subjective synonym of the long abandoned name *Ischnurus* C.L. Koch, 1837 (the type genus of ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879). ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 is not to be rejected despite being a junior homonym of ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Scorpiones; Odonata; ISCHNURIDAE; LIOCHELIDAE; COENAGRIONIDAE; *Liocheles*; *Ischnura*; scorpions; damselflies.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that:
 - (a) the name LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 is to be given precedence over the name ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879;
 - (b) the name ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 (Odonata) is not to be treated as invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879 (Scorpiones).
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Ischnura* Charpentier, 1840 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Selys-Longchamps (1850) *Agrion elegans* Van der Linden, 1823 (type genus of ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957);
 - (b) *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Scorpio australasiae* Fabricius, 1775 (type genus of LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879)).
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *elegans* Van der Linden, 1823, as published in the binomen *Agrion elegans* (specific name of the type species of *Ischnura* Charpentier, 1840);
 - (b) *australasiae* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Scorpio australasiae* (specific name of the type species of *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833).
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 (type genus *Ischnura* Charpentier, 1840; Odonata), with the endorsement that it is not to be treated as invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879 (Scorpiones):

- (b) LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) (type genus *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833; Scorpiones), with the endorsement that it has precedence over the name ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879.
- (5) The name ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879 (type genus *Ischnurus* C.L. Koch, 1837; Scorpiones), with the endorsement that it is to be treated as junior to LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) (type genus *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833), is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology.

History of Cases 3120 and 3120a

An application submitted by Victor Fet (*Department of Biological Sciences, Marshall University, West Virginia, U.S.A.*) and Günter Bechly (*Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Rosenstein 1, D-70191 Stuttgart, Germany*), proposing emendation of the name ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1857 to ISCHNURAINAE, was published as Case 3120 (BZN 57: 26–28). However, once it was realised that the introduction of the family name LIOCHELIDAE (based on *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833, which is universally used as the senior synonym of *Ischnura* C.L. Koch, 1837) avoided this undesirable change, the case was modified.

A second version of this application was submitted on 10 February 1999. This time the application focused on the adoption of the new scorpion family name LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) as a valid substitute name for ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879. After correspondence the application was published as Case 3120a in BZN 58: 280–281 (December 2001). The title, abstract and keywords of this case were published on the Commission's website. Comments in support of the revised application (Case 3120a) were published in BZN 59: 38.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 2002 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on proposals (3) and (4) published in BZN 57: 27 and the proposals published in BZN 58: 281. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2003 the votes were as follows: 19 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 4 Commissioners (Alonso-Zarazaga, Bouchet, Fortey and Štys) voted AGAINST, Böhme abstained, no vote was received from Mahnert, Ng was on leave of absence.

Voting against, Alonso-Zarazaga commented that 'in this case priority should apply; ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879 is widely used in Scorpiones and substitution of this name is both contrary to priority and to stability. Emendation of ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 to ISCHNURAINAE is the simplest course to follow, as well as the closest to the Code. This would avoid the creation of another name (LIOCHELIDAE) whose usefulness is doubtful'.

Original references

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

australasiae, *Scorpio*, Fabricius, 1775, *Systema entomologiae*, p. 399.
elegans, *Agrion*, Van der Linden, 1823, *Agriones Bononienses descriptae*, p. 104.

Ischnura Charpentier, 1840, *Libellulinae Europaeae descriptae ac depictae*, p. 20.

ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879, *Les Arachnides de France. VII. Contenant les Ordres des Chernetes, Scorpiones et Opiliones*, p. 92.

ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957, *A reclassification of the order Odonata*, p. 49.

Liocheles Sundevall, 1833, *Conspectus Arachnidum*, p. 31.

LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879), *BZN* 58: 281.

The following is the reference for the subsequent designation of *Agrion elegans* Van der Linden, 1823 as the type species of *Ischnura* Charpentier, 1840:

Selys-Longchamps, M.E. de. 1850. *Mémoires de la Société des Sciences de Liège*, vol. 6, p. 182.