

**Case 2759*****Goniosoma conspersum* Perty, December 1833 (currently *Mitobates conspersus*; Arachnida, Opiliones): proposed conservation of the specific name**

Adriano B. Kury

*Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, CCS  
bloco A, Ilha da Cidade Universidade, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 21941, Brazil*

**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is the conservation of the specific name of *Mitobates conspersus* (Perty, 1833), a Brazilian laniatorid harvestman, by the suppression of its unused senior synonym *Mitobates triangulus* Sundevall, April 1833.

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1. In a footnote to his description of the new genus *Mitobates*, Sundevall (1833, p. 34) described briefly (without an illustration) the species *Mitobates triangulus* which is the type species by monotypy. The type specimens were probably deposited in the collection of B.W. Westermann, whom Sundevall had consulted. After Westermann's death in 1868 the collection was donated to the Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen. Enquiries at Lund, Copenhagen and Stockholm Museums have yielded no positive result.

2. Perty (1833, p. 202) described *Goniosoma conspersum*, of which the type material is now deposited in the Zoological Museum of Berlin (specimens ZMB 943 a-c). The date of publication of Perty's paper is 13 December 1833, and that of Sundevall's is 24 April 1833.

3. Gervais (1844, pp. 108, 113) cited *Goniosoma conspersum* Perty, 1833 and *Mitobates triangulus* Sundevall, 1833 separately. Simon (1879, p. 234) mistakenly considered *M. conspersus* (Perty) to have date priority over *M. triangulus* Sundevall and listed the latter as a junior subjective synonym of the former. All subsequent authors have followed Simon (see, for example, Roewer, 1931; Mello-Leitão, 1932; Soares & Soares, 1949). A list of four representative references is held by the Commission Secretariat. *Mitobates triangulus* has not been cited since Gervais (1844) except as a synonym in check-lists. I have recently published (Kury, 1990) a paper concerning *Mitobates* Sundevall, 1833 with a redescription of the species *Mitobates conspersus* (Perty, 1833).

4. In view of the fact that *M. conspersus* has been widely used, its replacement by the subjective synonym *triangulus* which was published only a few months earlier and has been unused since 1844 is unwarranted.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *triangulus* Sundevall, 1833, as published in the binomen *Mitobates triangulus*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *consersum* Perty, 1833, as published in the binomen *Goniosoma consersum*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *triangulus* Sundevall, 1833, as published in the binomen *Mitobates triangulus* and as suppressed in (1) above.

### Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Dr. H. Enghoff (Copenhagen) and Dr. T. Kronstedt (Stockholm) for information on their collections.

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Article 32c(ii) of the Code states that 'incorrect transliteration or latinization ... are not to be considered inadvertent errors'. Consequently, we would rather follow Kobelt's 1875 statement (see BZN 48: 27, para. 3) that the spelling *Laiocochlis* was intended by Dunker & Metzger. In view of the usage of *Laiocochlis* or *Laiocochlis* by many modern European, Japanese and Russian authors, we conclude that stabilizing the spelling *Laiocochlis* would serve best the interest of nomenclatural stability. We believe that the Commission should not be concerned with the valid name of the type species of the genus but in any case proposal (3) on BZN 48: 28 should be dropped.

#### Additional references

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#### Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Mitobates conspersus* (Perty, 1833) (Arachnida, Opiliones) (Case 2759; see BZN 48: 105-106)

(1) L.B. Holthuis

Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Postbus 9157, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

The specific name *triangulus* Sundevall, 1833 (April) is that of the type species of *Mitobates*, described in the same paper, and it has priority over *conspersum* Perty, 1833 (December). The only reason to conserve *conspersum* is that since 1879 it has wrongly been considered to be the senior synonym, and there is no indication that the application of priority will cause confusion, unless there are further arguments.

(2) Adriano B. Kury

*Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Ilha da Cidade Universitária, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 21941, Brazil*

Dr L.B. Holthuis has asked for further information to justify the conservation of *conspersus* (Perty, December 1833) by suppression of *triangulus* Sundevall, published eight months earlier but never used as a senior synonym. As mentioned in my application (para. 3) since 1879 *conspersus* had been taken to be senior.

One of the references previously cited (Soares & Soares, 1949) is the prime reference for the GONYLEPTIDAE, and another (Mello-Leitão, 1932) is a monograph on Brazilian Opiliones, and both used *conspersus*. As stated in the application, Perty's type material of *conspersus* is available in the Berlin Museum, while Sundevall's article was very brief, with no illustrations or indication of deposition of any type material, and the information provided by him is inadequate to identify his species with certainty. When describing the new subfamily MITOBATINAE Simon (1879) regarded *M. conspersus* as the typical mitobatine.

Although the literature on Neotropical harvestmen is very sparse *conspersus* has been treated as the valid name of the type species since long ago and I think the resurrection of *triangulus* would be undesirable.

**Comment on the proposed conservation of *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecoq, 1905 (Insecta, Coleoptera)**

(Case 2757; see BZN 48: 135–136)

M.A. Alonso-Zarazaga

*Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, J.Gutiérrez Abascal 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain*

In a letter forwarded by the Executive Secretary, Dr L.B. Holthuis (*Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands*) has referred to *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecoq, 1905 as a 'perhaps rather unimportant generic name, the loss of which would not cause much inconvenience', and has asked what would be the valid name for the genus (or subgenus) if it were not conserved.

My general view on priority (see BZN 47: 213–214) follows that expressed recently by Ng (BZN 48: 87–91), and it is clear that the older a synonym used as valid the less are the chances of finding a yet more senior name. Thus the Principle of Priority improves stability.

However, there is no known synonym or replacement name of *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecoq. It would have been possible to write a short paper inventing a replacement name, but it would have taken just as much time and effort as writing the application, and in future a senior synonym of the new name might have been found. There are users of nomenclature who do not want to learn new names of taxa which are familiar to them. Also, from an ethical point of view, I wonder whether we have a right to cross out with one stroke of the pen the work of a former zoologist. With regard to the 'importance' of *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecoq, I have found new species of economic interest in material sent by applied entomologists. It may be that species of *Rhinapion* are as numerous and injurious as those of *Piezotrachelus*.

## OPINION 1703

*Goniosoma conspersum* Perty, 1833 (currently *Mitobates conspersus*; Arachnida, Opiliones): specific name not conserved

### Ruling

(1) The name *Mitobates* Sundevall, 1833 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation and by monotypy *Mitobates triangulus* Sundevall, 1833, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(2) The name *triangulus* Sundevall, 1833, as published in the binomen *Mitobates triangulus*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

### History of Case 2759

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Goniosoma conspersum* Perty, December 1833 by suppressing the unused senior subjective synonym *Mitobates triangulus* Sundevall, April 1833 was received from Dr Adriano B. Kury (*Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*) on 14 February 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 48: 105–106 (June 1991). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. An opposing comment from Prof L.B. Holthuis (*Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands*), together with a reply by the author of the application, was published in BZN 48: 323–324 (December 1991).

The application was sent to the Commission for voting on 1 March 1992. The proposals on BZN 48: 105–106 received a majority (19 votes 'For' and 10 'Against') but just failed to reach the two-thirds majority required (Article 12b of the Constitution) for the suppression of *M. triangulus*. On 1 September 1992 the application was submitted for a revote under the Bylaws.

It was noted on the voting paper that no type material of *M. triangulus*, the nominal type species of *Mitobates* Sundevall, 1833, apparently existed but three syntypes of *G. conspersum* were deposited in Berlin (paras. 1 and 2 of the application). It was also noted that, voting in March 1992 in favour of the application, Cocks commented that he was swayed by the survival of the types of *G. conspersum* and Kabata commented that he was persuaded, albeit reluctantly, because of the inadequacy of the original (unillustrated) description of *M. triangulus* and the absence of any type material.

A proposal to place the name *Mitobates* on the Official List, in accord with usual practice, completed the proposals on BZN 48: 105–106 and was included on the voting papers circulated in both March and September 1992.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to revote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 105–106. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1992 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 16: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Kabata, Kraus, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Nielsen, Schuster, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 12: Bouchet, Dupuis, Holthuis, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Minelli, Nye, Ride, Savage, Starobogatov, Štys and Thompson.

No vote was received from Heppell.

Ride commented that a *prima facie* case that stability was threatened had not been established and that one of the syntypes of *Goniosoma conspersum* could be designated as the neotype of *Mitobates triangulus*. Thompson commented that there was insufficient documentation of usage of *M. conspersus* (Perty, 1833) to justify the suppression of *M. triangulus*.

Since the required two-thirds majority was not reached the junior name *Goniosoma conspersum* was not conserved.

### Original references

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

*Mitobates* Sundevall, 1833, *Conspectus arachnidum*, p. 34.

*triangulus*, *Mitobates*, Sundevall, 1833, *Conspectus arachnidum*, p. 34, footnote.