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When the Danish diacritic evaporates: nomenclatural considerations on the generic name
Sorensenella Pocock, 1903 (Opiliones: Insidiatores: Triaenonychidae)

Quando il diacritico danese sparisce: considerazioni nomenclaturali sul nome generico
Sorensenella Pocock, 1903 (Opiliones: Insidiatores: Triaenonychidae)

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Abstract

The persistent misspelling of the genus name *Sorensenella* Pocock, 1903 is detected and corrected, which also affects the family-group name Sorensenellinae Forster, 1954. Altogether three different misspellings are recorded.

Keywords: New Zealand, harvestmen, Laniatores.

Riassunto

Il persistente errore di scrittura del nome generico *Sorensenella* Pocock, 1903 viene individuato e corretto, e questo riguarda anche il nome della famiglia Sorensenellinae Forster, 1954. Inoltre sono segnalati tre diversi errori di scrittura.

Parole chiave: Nuova Zelanda, opilioni, Laniatores.

Introduction

This contribution carries on with a series of small works on nomenclature of Opiliones, aiming to clarify the taxonomy toward an accurate publication of a world catalog of the order. Herein *Sorensenella* Pocock, 1903, a small genus of Insidiatores of the family Triaenonychidae with four species from New Zealand, is dealt with. This genus carries special weight because it is the type of the subfamily Sorensenellinae Forster, 1954. The genus has consistently been misspelled in the literature as *Soerenzenella*, and below the

correct formation and use of this name are explained, which should also extend to the subfamily.

Literature citations of taxa are not exhaustive, but rather only those relevant to the purposes of this work. Complete citations for everything will be featured in the above mentioned Catalog of Opiliones of the World. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999) is herein referred to as simply ICZN Code.

Historical background and discussion

1) Pocock (1903a) described in the family Triaenonychidae the new genus *Sorensenella* Pocock, 1903 along with the species *Sorensenella prehensor* Pocock, 1903 (which is the type by original designation) from New Zealand. This name was a tribute to the Danish arachnologist William Emil Sørensen (1848–1916), who made very important contributions in Opiliones. In the introduction on page 392 Pocock spelled the genus name as *Sörensenella*, with a diacritic, and in the rest of the paper he spelled it as *Sorensenella*. The ICZN Code Art. 32.5.2. states that: “A name published with a diacritic or other mark, ligature, apostrophe, or hyphen, or a species-group name published as separate words of which any is an abbreviation, is to be corrected.”

2) Publication date of Pocock (1903a). The nominal date of the volume is “May–December 1902”, although in the list of contents, the precise dates of each part of the volume II are given. Pocock’s article bears the publication date December 2, 1902. However, soon afterwards, Pocock (1903b) explicitly stated the date thus: “Proc. Zool. Soc. 1902, ii. p. 409 (April 1903).” Indeed, Duncan (1937: 75) explained that the pages in question were issued in April, 1903.

3) Pocock (1903b: 439) cited the genus as *Sorensenella* without the diacritic. Although he did not mention the former discrepancy of spellings, nor cited the alternative spelling, he should in this case be regarded as the First Reviser. I quote ICZN Code Art. 24.2.4: “Original authors may be deemed to be First Revisers of spellings. When the author, or one of joint authors, of two different original spellings of the same name subsequently uses one of them as valid in a work (including the author's or publisher's corrigenda), and neither had previously been selected as the correct spelling by a First Reviser, the author is deemed to be the First Reviser, whether or not the author cites both spellings together (that used as valid becomes the correct original spelling).”

4) Roewer (1915b) in a review of the Triaenonychidae cited a new spelling that had not appeared before, consistently writing *Soerensella* in the key (page 66), in the genus heading (page 92) and in the captions for the figures of the species (pages 93–94). Roewer surely meant to correct the name to *Soerensenella*, adding an –e, which is corroborated by other formations he did based on the name Sørensen (e.g., *Triacumontia soerenseni* Roewer 1915

in the same paper). However, as this spelling was neither among the original ones, nor it was presented as a correction (a “better” Latinization), it should be simply regarded as an incorrect subsequent spelling (ICZN Code Art. 33.3).

5) Hogg (1920: 42–43) consistently followed Pocock by writing *Sorensenella*.

6) Roewer (1923: 599–600) created yet another spelling, probably the same that he intended to coin already in 1915 – *Soerensenella* – conveying the idea that the Latin –oe should represent the –ö (o with Umlaut) first used by Pocock, which in turn would be the correct rendering of the Danish –ø (o with stroke). However, the ICZN Code (Art. 32.5.2.1) rules very specifically the correction of names originally spelled with diacritics: “In the case of a diacritic or other mark, the mark concerned is deleted, except that in a name published before 1985 and based upon a German word, the umlaut sign is deleted from a vowel and the letter “e” is to be inserted after that vowel (if there is any doubt that the name is based upon a German word, it is to be so treated).” As the name *Sorensenella* is NOT based on a German word, Roewer’s spelling is another incorrect subsequent spelling.

7) All subsequent authors (e.g., Phillipps & Grimmet 1932: 737; Forster 1954: 247; Hickman 1958: 3; Ringuelet 1959: 252; Rodriguez & Guerrero 1976: 246; Buzatto *et al.* 2013: 150; Kury *et al.* 2014: 2; Shear *et al.* 2014: 252) followed Roewer’s misspelling *Soerensenella*.

8) Neave’s Nomenclator (1940: 216; also uBio 2017) gives only “*Sörensensella* / Pocock 1903 / Proc. zool. Soc. London, 1902 (2), 392, 409. / Arachn”, while the spelling *Soerensenella* does not appear.

9) Forster (1954: 247) based on the misspelling *Soerensenella* coined the subfamily name *Soerensenellinae* Forster, 1954. This name was never spelled otherwise in the literature (e.g., Hickman 1958: 3; Kauri 1961: 75; Juberthie 1964: 59; Briggs 1971: 3; Maury 1988: 123; Kury 2003: 13). However, the spelling of this name should be changed to *Sorensenellinae* to match the fixation of the correct spelling of the type genus. According to ICZN Code Art. 35.4.1: “A family-group name based upon an unjustified emendation (but see Article 35.4.2) or an incorrect spelling of the name of the type genus must be corrected, unless it is preserved under Article 29.5 or unless the spelling of the genus-group name used to form the family-group name is preserved under Articles 33.2.3.1 or 33.3.1.”

Taxonomic summary

Laniatores Thorell, 1876

Triaenonychidae Sørensen, 1886

Sorensenellinae Forster, 1954

Soerensenellinae Forster 1954: 247 [type genus: *Sorensenella* Pocock, 1903].

***Sorensenella* Pocock, 1903**

Sörensenella (incorrect original spelling) Pocock 1903a: 392 [type species: *Soerensenella prehensor* Pocock, 1903, by original designation].

Sorensenella Pocock 1903a: 409.

Sorensenella (spelling fixed by the action of the First Reviser): Pocock 1903b: 439; Hogg 1920: 42.

Soerensella Roewer 1915: 92 (incorrect subsequent spelling).

Soerensenella (incorrect subsequent spelling): Roewer 1923: 899; Roewer 1931: 155; Phillipps & Grimmet 1932: 737; Forster 1954: 247; Hickman 1958: 3; Ringuelet 1959: 252.

Akaroa Roewer 1931: 169 [junior subjective synonym of *Soerensenella* Pocock, 1903 by Forster (1954: 248); type species: *Akaroa formosa* Roewer, 1931, by monotypy].

Etymology. *Sorensenella* in honor of Danish arachnologist William Emil Sørensen (1848–1916). Gender feminine. The name appeared with two alternative spellings in the original work. Roewer (1915; 1923) created two other [subsequent incorrect] spellings.

Placement. *Sorensenella* originally in Triaenonychidae, not assigned to any subfamily. Included in the subfamily Triaenonychinae by Roewer (1915b). Made the type of subfamily Sorensenellinae by Forster (1954).

Conclusions

- 1) *Sorensenella* Pocock, [April] 1903 is one of two original spellings of this genus name.
- 2) *Sörensenella* Pocock, [April] 1903 is the alternative spelling.
- 3) The precise date of Pocock's work is April 1903, in spite of having the nominal date 1902 and having being several times cited as of 1902.
- 4) Pocock [May] 1903 acted as the First Reviser fixing the spelling as *Sorensenella*.
- 5) This fixation would have made no difference because *Sörensenella* should have been emended to *Sorensenella* anyway.
- 6) *Soerensella* is an incorrect subsequent spelling by Roewer (1915).
- 7) *Soerensenella* is yet another incorrect subsequent spelling by Roewer (1923), and should be abandoned, in spite of having been cited many times in the literature.
- 8) The subfamily name *Soerensenellinae* Forster, 1954 is based on a misspelling of the genus name.
- 9) A subfamily name based on the genus name *Sorensenella* should be *Sorensenellinae*, therefore *Sorensenellinae* Forster, 1954 is herein adopted as the correct spelling.

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