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The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature.
London, International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature.
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v.49:pt.1-4 (1992:Mar.-Dec.):
https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44490

Page(s): Page 62

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Comment on the article *Problems in the Nomenclature of Higher Taxonomic Categories* by Ya.I. Starobogatov

(See BZN **48**: 6–18)

A.P. Rasnitsyn
Paleontological Institute, Academy of Sciences, Profsoyuznaya 123, Moscow 117868–7, Russia

I consider the proposals by Starobogatov (1991) to be important and timely, and I agree with them with a single though important reservation. I feel a mistake the proposition (BZN **48**: 13) to allow formal availability of a descriptive (non-typified) name with its author and date, for this will prevent its replacement by the typified name. Indeed, under this proposal the typified name will be a junior synonym of the descriptive name. Until the names of higher taxa are entirely regulated by the Code the current practice is better, that is the use of descriptive names despite their having no formal availability.

Additionally, I think that hemihomonymy (see pp. 8–9) would be more securely avoided if suprageneric names ended in *-i* and *-ae*, not *-es*.

Comments on the proposed conservation in their accepted usage of the nominal taxa *Bucephalus* Baer, 1827 and *B. polymorphus* Baer, 1827 (Trematoda)

(Case 2251; see BZN **36**: 30–36, **49**: 6–11)

Editorial Note: A detailed comment opposing Dr Baturo's application was received from Dr Srivastava (Zoological Survey of India) on 5 January 1981. Extensive correspondence took place between Dr Srivastava, Mr R.V. Melville (then Secretary of the Commission) and Dr Baturo between January 1981 and April 1985. A condensed version of Dr Srivastava's comments is now published for the first time. Comments in support of Dr Baturo's application from Dr D.I. Gibson (*Head of the Parasitic Worms Division, The Natural History Museum, London*), from Dr O.N. Pugachev (*Head of the Parasitic Worms Department, Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg*) and from Professor J.C. Pearson (*Professor of Helminthology, Department of Parasitology, University of Queensland*) are also published. Dr Gibson's comment takes recent usage into account.

(1) C.B. Srivastava
Zoological Survey of India, 8 Lindsay Street, Calcutta-16, India

This comment opposes Dr Baturo's application to conserve the generic name *Bucephalus* Baer, 1827, with type species *B. polymorphus* Baer, 1827 in place of *Gasterostomum* Siebold, 1848, with type species *G. fimbriatum* Siebold, 1848, and to use *Rhipidocotyle* Diesing, 1858, with type species *R. galeatum* (Rudolphi, 1819) in place of *Bucephalus* Baer, 1827, with type species *B. polymorphus* Baer, 1827. The history of the confused classification of bucephalid trematodes shows that application of the normal rules of zoological nomenclature is more desirable than invoking the plenary powers of the Commission to stabilise the systematics of this group.

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