OPINION 1689

Epizoanthus Gray, 1867 (Cnidaria, Anthozoa): conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name Sidisia Gray, 1858 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name Epizoanthus Gray, 1867 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy Dysidea papillosa Johnston, 1842, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name papillosa Johnston, 1842, as published in the binomen Duseideia? papillosa (specific name of the type species of Epizoanthus Gray, 1867), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name Sidisia Gray, 1858, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2750

An application for the conservation of Epizoanthus Gray, 1867 was received from Prof. J.S. Ryland and Dr A. Muirhead (University College of Swansea, Swansea, U.K.) on 5 December 1989. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 48: 19–21 (March 1991). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. A comment in support from Dr Mark J. Grygier (Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, Wakayama, Japan) was published in BZN 48: 243 (September 1991).

It was noted on the voting paper that the new species papillosa Johnston, 1842 (pp. 190–190, 251, pl. 16, figs. 6, 7) was tentatively included in the new genus Duseideia Johnston, 1842, and that Dysidea should therefore be amended to Duseideia? in proposal 10(3) on BZN 48: 20.

Johnston (1842, p. 185) established Duseideia with two included species, Spongia fragilis Montagu, 1818 (p. 114, pl. 14, figs. 1, 2) and D. papillosa. Later in the same work (p. 251) Johnston altered the spelling of the generic name to Dysidea. Bowerbank (1864), acting as first revisor, adopted the spelling Dysidea and Duseideia has not subsequently been used. deLaubenfels (1948) designated Spongia fragilis Montagu as the type species of Dysidea. The names Dysidea Johnston, 1842 and Spongia fragilis Montagu, 1818 were placed on Official Lists in Opinion 1550 (September 1989); Duseideia Johnston, 1842 (an incorrect original spelling of Dysidea) was placed on the Official Index in the same Opinion.

In a note on Dysidea papillosa, Bowerbank (1866, p. 384) placed the species in the Zoanthidae (Anthozoa) and recorded that ‘Dr Johnston...expresses his doubts of its being truly a sponge’.

Additional references


Montagu, G. 1818. An essay on sponges, with descriptions of all the species that have been discovered on the coast of Great Britain. *Memoirs of the Wernerian Natural History Society*, 2: 67–122.

**Decision of the Commission**

On 1 March 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in *BZN* 48: 20. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1992 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 28: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Kabata.

**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:

