

Case 2869

HEMIDACTYLIINI Hallowell, 1856 (Amphibia, Caudata): proposed conservation

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name **HEMIDACTYLIINI** Hallowell, 1856 which has been used for nearly 30 years for a tribe of eight genera of salamanders mainly from eastern North America but with a few species from central United States and Canada. The name is threatened by **MYCETOGLOSSINI** Bonaparte, 1850 which has been used only once (in 1984) and is based on the unused junior objective synonym *Mycetoglossus* Bonaparte, [1839]. It is proposed that **MYCETOGLOSSINI** be invalidated by the suppression of *Mycetoglossus*.

1. In 1850 Bonaparte established the family-group name **MYCETOGLOSSINI** (as 'Mycetoglossina') based upon his own nominal genus *Mycetoglossus* Bonaparte, [1839] (Article 11f(i) of the Code), which he described and proposed as an unnecessary and invalid replacement for *Pseudotriton* Tschudi, 1838 (pp. 94-95; the name was spelt 'Pseudo-Triton' by Bonaparte). The dates of publication ([1832]-[1841]) of the parts of Bonaparte's earlier work were set out by Salvadori (1888). Neither of Bonaparte's publications was paginated. The family-group name 'Mycetoglossina' was included in the **PLETHODONTIDAE** and was published as no. 27 in the table 'Classis IV. Amphibia'. The generic name *Mycetoglossus* appeared as no. 13 of the 'generi Salamandrini', an article included within the chapter on *Euproctus platycephalus*. The name *Mycetoglossus* has remained unused whilst its senior objective synonym *Pseudotriton* has continued to be recognized as valid up to the present time.

2. The name **HEMIDACTYLIIDAE** (published as 'Hemidactylidae'; see para. 6 below) was proposed by Hallowell (1856, p. 11) based on *Hemidactylum* Tschudi, 1838 (p. 94), a genus which has continued to be recognized as valid. The single species *H. scutatum* was included in the genus and the specific name is available (Article 12b(6)) from Tschudi's work. Tschudi's publication was included in the *Mémoires de la Société des Sciences Naturelles de Neuchâtel* in 1840 but was issued as a separate in 1838. Mertens (1967, p. v) accepted Stejneger's (1907, p. 6) date of October 1838 for the first publication of Tschudi's work. Tschudi (pp. 59, 94) referred to a specimen of *scutatum* in the Leiden museum but not to publication of the name in Siebold's *Fauna Japonica*, as he did with other species; he noted (p. 94) '*Hemidactylum*

scutatum Tsch. Syn. *Salamandra scutata* Schlegel. Mus. Lugd.'. However, *Salamandra scutata*, collected from Nashville in Tennessee, was described by Temminck & Schlegel (p. 119) in the *Fauna Japonica*, the amphibian part of which has been dated as either January 1838 (Sherborn & Jentink, 1895, p. 150), or as '1838 ... between May and October, probably ... September' (Stejneger, 1907, p. 543), or as 'after May 1838' (Hoogmoed, 1978, p. 92). Authorship of Temminck & Schlegel, [1838] for *scutata* is adopted here (see also Frost, 1985, pp. 589, 590). Sherborn (1930, p. 5826) credited the specific name to Tschudi (1838). Schlegel (1844, p. 123, pl. 40, figs. 4-6) figured the species and referred to the earlier Temminck & Schlegel publication. The holotype specimen of *scutatum*, on which the description in both Tschudi's and Temminck & Schlegel's publications was based, is no. RMNH 2301 in the Leiden museum (see Hoogmoed, 1978, pp. 103-104).

3. Hallowell reused his family-group name in 1858 (p. 339). Subsequently neither Bonaparte's nor Hallowell's family-group names was adopted as valid at any level until 1966, when Wake, in his monographic review of the classification of the PLETHODONTIDAE, revived Hallowell's name for a tribe, the HEMIDACTYLIINI, to include eight genera, among them both *Hemidactylum* and *Pseudotriton*.

4. Invoking the Principle of Priority, Dubois (1984, pp. 113-114) revived Bonaparte's name, as MYCETOGLOSSINI, in place of Hallowell's HEMIDACTYLIINI, including both *Hemidactylum* and *Pseudotriton* in the tribe. However, the Code (Article 23b) makes it clear that 'The Principle of Priority is to be used to promote stability and is not intended to be used to upset a long-accepted name in its accustomed meaning through the introduction of an unused name that is its senior synonym'. Neither the senior family-group name MYCETOGLOSSINI nor the name of its type genus *Mycetoglossus* has been used since their proposal (except by Bonaparte, 1852, p. 478, as 'Mycetoglossina'). On the contrary, with the exception of Dubois (1984), the family-group name HEMIDACTYLIDAE (or its nominotypical subordinates) has been used consistently, mostly after 1966, to the present time in the classification of the PLETHODONTIDAE. A non-exhaustive sample of authors includes Wake (1966, p. 50), Rabb (1966, p. 1), Brandon (1967, p. 1; 1970), Bruce (1971, p. 234), Lombard (1977, p. 49), Sweet (1977, p. 2; 1978, p. 105), Potter & Sweet (1981, p. 64), Wake, Roth & Wake (1983, p. 208), Frost (1985, pp. 587-591), Duellman & Trueb (1986, p. 507), Lombard & Wake (1986, p. 533), Roth (1987), Sever (1987, p. 105) and Roth, Nishikawa, Dicke & Wake (1988). The type genus of the family-group, *Hemidactylum* Tschudi, 1838, has a long history as a valid genus up to the present time, and has been cited in hundreds of publications in numerous contexts, both scientific and popular. Its single species, *H. scutatum* (Temminck & Schlegel, [1838]), is on the list of protected species in many of the states in which it occurs. Resurrection of Bonaparte's family-group name MYCETOGLOSSINI would be uselessly disruptive of nomenclatural stability.

5. Fitzinger (1843, p. 19) proposed a family-group name 'Hemidactyli' based on the gecko (lizard) genus *Hemidactylus*. The stem of the generic name is *Hemidactyl-* and the family name should be corrected (Article 35d(i)) to give HEMIDACTYLIDAE. The stem of Hallowell's salamander generic name *Hemidactylum* is *Hemidactyli-*, yielding the spelling HEMIDACTYLIDAE at the family level. Article 55 makes it clear that these lizard and salamander family-group names are not homonyms, despite their similarity. In any event, the lizard family-group name has not been used since

it was proposed. With the exception of Frost (1985), who used the spelling 'Hemidactylini', authors have used the correct spelling of the salamander family-group name.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Mycetoglossus* Bonaparte, [1839] for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy, thereby invalidating the family-group name MYCETOGLOSSINI Bonaparte, 1850;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Hemidactylum* Tschudi, 1838 (gender: neuter), type species by monotypy *Salamandra scutata* Temminck & Schlegel, [1838];
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *scutata* Temminck & Schlegel, [1838], as published in the binomen *Salamandra scutata* (specific name of the type species of *Hemidactylum* Tschudi, 1838);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name HEMIDACTYLIINI Hallowell, 1856 (type genus *Hemidactylum* Tschudi, 1838);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Mycetoglossus* Bonaparte, 1839 (a junior objective synonym of *Pseudotriton* Tschudi, 1838 and suppressed in (1) above);
- (6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name MYCETOGLOSSINI Bonaparte, 1850 (invalid because the name of the type genus has been suppressed in (1) above).

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