

OPINION 2208 (Case 3372)***Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 (Osteichthyes, Siluriformes): precedence given over *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the generic name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 for a genus of South American freshwater catfishes is conserved by giving it precedence over two senior subjective synonyms, *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Siluriformes; PIMELODIDAE; *Brachyplatystoma*; *Piramutana*; *Piratinga*; *Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*; *Piratinga reticulatus*; *Piramutana piramuta*; catfish; goliath catfishes; South America.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the generic name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 be given precedence over *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858 whenever it and either of these two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 (gender: neuter), type species by original designation *Platystoma vaillantii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840, with the endorsement that it be given precedence over the names *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858 whenever it and either of these two names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Bleeker (1862) *Bagrus reticulatus* Kner, 1858, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (c) *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Bagrus piramuta* Kner, 1858, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The following names are placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *vaillantii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840, as published in the binomen *Platystoma vaillantii* (specific name of the type species of *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862);
 - (b) *reticulatus* Kner, 1858, as published in the binomen *Bagrus reticulatus* (specific name of the type species of *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858);
 - (c) *piramuta* Kner, 1858, as published in the binomen *Bagrus piramuta* (specific name of the type species of *Piramutana* Bleeker, 1858).

History of Case 3372

An application to conserve the usage of the name *Brachyplatystoma* Bleeker, 1862 for a genus of South American freshwater catfishes (family PIMELODIDAE) by giving it precedence over two senior subjective synonyms, *Piratinga* Bleeker, 1858 and *Piramutana* Bleeker 1858 was received from Alberto Akama (*Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil*) and John G. Lundberg (*Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.A.*) on 10 January 2005. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 64(1): 54–59 (March 2007). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2008 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 64: 56. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2008 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 15: Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kottelat, Krell, Lamas, Mawatari, Papp, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative votes – 2: Kullander, Pape.

No votes were received from Lim. Alonso-Zarazaga, Minelli, Ng, Patterson and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Although voting for the proposals, Halliday commented that there were points in the presentation of the case that could have been improved. First, in the case it is stated that the name *Piramutana* was 'listed' in a series of modern works, but it is not clear if the authors intend to invoke Article 23.9.6 and refer to these as listings only and not true taxonomic usages. At least some of the works appear to be taxonomic research papers rather than catalogues. Secondly, Halliday suggested that the case would have been improved if the sentence referring 'to the Commission under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code' (end paragraph 9) had been omitted, as the Commission had been asked to reverse precedence under 23.9.3, not to suppress senior synonyms under 81.2.3. However, he added that, as neither of his objections has a material effect on the specific actions requested, they can be overlooked. Kottelat commented that his only reasons in voting for the proposals were the economic importance of the genus and the potential that a number of species are overfished and will need inclusion in Red Lists and other legal instruments (if not already done). Kullander, voting against the proposals, commented that apparently *Piratinga* has not been used after 1899 and would succumb to Article 23.9.1 if properly published, but then to priority of *Brachyplatystoma*. This would not help, because *Piramutana* is still the valid name and has been listed. He did not agree that *Brachyplatystoma* is well established in zoology, although it might possibly be established in neotropical ichthyology. Given the general instability of names of neotropical fishes, and the case that Zungaro recently replaced the 'well known' *Paulicea* for another of these large catfishes, Kullander said he can not support this case with the current explanation. However, if the authors could have shown any legal or other severe implications beyond those for catfish taxonomists, Kullander would have found it to be a stronger case.

Original references

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

Brachyplatystoma Bleeker, 1862, *Atlas ichthyologique des Indes Orientales Néerlandaises, publié sous les auspices du Gouvernement colonial néerlandais*. Tome II. Siluroïdes, Chacoïdes et Hétérobranchoides, p. 10.

piramuta, *Bagrus*, Kner, 1858, *Sitzungsberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Classe*, **26**: 382.

Piramutana Bleeker, 1858, *Acta Societatis Scientiarum Indo-Neerlandicae*, **4**: 356, 357.

Piratinga Bleeker, 1858, *Acta Societatis Scientiarum Indo-Neerlandicae*, **4**: 355, 357.

reticulatus, *Bagrus*, Kner, 1858, Ichthyologische Beiträge. II. Abtheilung. *Sitzungsberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Classe*, Wien, **26**: 376.

vaillantii, *Platystoma*, Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840, *Histoire naturelle des poissons*. Tome quinzième. Suite du livre dix-septième. Siluroïdes, p. 21.