

## Case 3371

### ARANEIDAE Clerck, 1758, *Araneus* Clerck, 1758 and *Tegenaria* Latreille, 1804 (Arachnida, Araneae): proposed conservation

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.1 and 81.1 of the Code, is (1) to confirm the status of the family-group name ARANEIDAE (originally Aranei) with the authorship Clerck (1758) for a family of spiders; (2) to designate *Araneus angulatus* Clerck, 1758 as the type species of the generic name *Araneus* Clerck, 1758; (3) to conserve the generic name *Tegenaria* Latreille, 1804 by suppression of its senior objective synonym *Aranea* Linnaeus, 1758.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; ARANEIDAE; *Araneus*; *Tegenaria*; *Araneus angulatus*; spiders.

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#### The family-group name ARANEIDAE

1. In accordance with a decision of the 13th International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (BZN 5: 33–35, 98–100) and Direction 104 (December, 1959), the name *Araneus* published by Clerck (1757) has been ruled to be available as a generic name, and to have priority as though it had been published in 1758, but prior to the publication of the 10th edition of *Systema Naturae* (Linnaeus, 1758). This decision was made in accordance with a suggestion by Bonnet (1944, 1947). Although the genus *Araneus* was not described by Clerck, the name ‘*Araneus*’ was used by Clerck in combination with some specific names (as ‘*Araneus Angulatus*’, ‘*Araneus Diadematus*’, ‘*Aran. Quadratus*’, ‘*Aran. Castaneus*’ and ‘*Aran. Domesticus*’), which makes it available as a generic name, according to Article 12.2.5 of the Code (Names published before 1931—Indications).

2. Since the generic name *Araneus* became available, the authorship and priority of the family-group name ARANEIDAE becomes unclear. It is often accepted that the oldest family-group name among spider taxa is ARANEIDAE Latreille, 1806 (originally as ARANEIDES, both in Latin and French). Actually the family-group name ARANEIDES Latreille, 1806 was derived not from *Araneus* Clerck, 1758, but from *Aranea* Linnaeus, 1758. While Latreille (1806) included in his ARANEIDES all spiders (i.e. Maripalpi Cook, 1899), he used the generic name *Aranea* in a restricted sense—for a group corresponding to the previously described genera *Agelena* Walckenaer, 1805 and *Tegenaria* Latreille, 1804. In this sense the genus *Aranea* included only *Aranea labyrinthica* Linnaeus, 1758 (= *Araneus labyrinthicus* Clerck, 1758, currently *Agelena labyrinthica* (Clerck, 1758)) and *Aranea domestica* Linnaeus, 1758 (= *Araneus domesticus* Clerck, 1758, currently *Tegenaria domestica* (Clerck, 1758)). In his next publication, Latreille (1810) designated one of these species (*Aranea domestica* Linnaeus, 1758) as the type species of *Aranea*. This restriction of the genus and type

designation is at variance with modern usage of the name ARANEIDAE (see para. 4 below). The oldest family-group name derived from *Araneus* Clerck, 1758 is ARANAE Simon, 1895 (p. 798). This means that in modern classification the family name ARANEIDAE Simon, 1895 is a junior synonym of EPEIRIDAE Sundevall, 1833 and ARGIOPIDAE Simon, 1890; the superfamily name ARANEOIDEA Simon, 1895 is a junior synonym of EPEIROIDEA Sundevall, 1833, THERIDIOIDEA Sundevall, 1833, LINYPHIOIDEA Blackwall, 1859, TETRAGNATHOIDEA Menge, 1866, THERIDIOSOMATOIDEA Simon, 1881 and ARGIOPOIDEA Simon, 1890. This contradicts accepted usage, according to which ARANEIDAE and ARANEOIDEA are regarded as the oldest names among all Maripalpi.

3. Currently many authors ascribe the authorship 'Clerck, 1758' (or 'Clerck, 1757') to the names ARANEI and ARANAEAE, regarding 'ARANEAE' as an emendation of the original 'ARANEI'. In 1996 the Arachnology Nomenclature Committee of CIDA (Centre International de Documentation Arachnologique) recommended use of the name ARANAEAE, referring to the paper by Savory (1972), where this name is cited as 'ARANEAE Clerck, 1757'. Emendation of the publication date means that the name ARANEI Clerck, 1758 is recognized now as an available typified taxon name. By its original circumscription, Clerck's group ARANEI corresponds to the genus *Aranea* sensu Linnaeus, 1758 and to the family ARANEIDES sensu Latreille, 1806. If the Commission confirms the availability of the family-group name ARANEI Clerck, 1758, this would restore the priority of the family-group names ARANEINAE, ARANEIDAE and ARANEOIDEA and increase the stability of family-group names of spiders.

### The type species of *Araneus* Clerck, 1758

4. It is presently not clear which species is the type of *Araneus* Clerck, 1758. Simon (1895, pp. 799, 829) referred to *Araneus angulatus* Clerck, 1758 as the type species of *Araneus*. He stated that this type designation was proposed by Clerck, probably on the basis that *Araneus angulatus* had page priority over other species described by Clerck. In fact, Clerck applied the name *Araneus* to spiders of all genera and did not designate a type species for *Araneus*. Petrunkevitch (1911) gave two different type species for the genus *Araneus*: *Araneus angulatus*, as the type species of the 'cohors *Araneus*. (Clerck, 1757). Simon, 1895' and *Araneus diadematus* Clerck, 1758, as the type species of the 'genus *Araneus* Clerck, 1757'. Later Petrunkevitch (1928) named only *Araneus diadematus* as the type species of *Araneus*. Bonnet (1955) also referred to *Araneus diadematus* as the type species of *Araneus*. The generic name *Araneus* was often confused with the generic name *Aranea*, to which some authors ascribed the type species *Aranea diadema* Linnaeus, 1758 (= *Araneus diadematus* Clerck, 1758), but actually *Aranea* has a different type species (see para. 5). It is proposed that the Commission designate *Araneus angulatus* Clerck, 1758, as proposed by Simon (1895), as the type species of *Araneus*.

5. The generic name *Aranea* used by Linnaeus (1758) cannot be regarded as a justified emendation of the generic name *Araneus* Clerck, 1758, thus it has its own status and authorship of Linnaeus (1758) (Article 33.2.3 of the Code—Unjustified emendation). The generic names *Araneus* Clerck, 1758 and *Aranea* Linnaeus, 1758 are not objective synonyms. Originally, both genera (*Araneus* sensu Direction 104 and *Aranea* sensu Linnaeus, 1758) referred to all spiders. The type species of *Araneus* Clerck, 1758 is *Araneus angulatus*, as proposed by Simon (1895), whereas the type species of *Aranea* is *Araneus domesticus* Clerck, 1758 (= *Aranea domestica* Linnaeus,

1758), according to subsequent designation by Latreille (1810). Validity of type designations by Latreille (1810) is in accordance with Article 69 of the Code (Type species not fixed in the original publication) and was confirmed by the Commission: Opinions 11 (July, 1910) and 136 (August, 1939) and Direction 4 (October, 1954). Earlier Latreille (1804) divided the genus *Aranea* into subgenera, among which the nominative subgenus *Aranea* included species named ‘*Aranea clavipes* Fab.’, ‘*Aranea diadema* Fab.’ and ‘*Aranea spinosa* Fab.’, but did not include *Aranea domestica*; such elimination does not in itself constitute type fixation (Article 69.4 of the Code). Recently the placement of *Araneus domesticus* in the genus *Tegenaria* Latreille, 1804 and the family AGELENIDAE Koch, 1837 has been generally accepted. In order to conserve the generic name *Tegenaria*, the older name *Aranea* Linnaeus, 1758 would need to be suppressed.

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

- (1) to use its plenary power:
  - (a) to confirm the status of a family-group name for ARANEIDAE Clerck, 1758 (original spelling ARANEI), with the type genus *Araneus* Clerck, 1758;
  - (b) to set aside all fixations of type species for *Araneus* Clerck, 1758 before that by Simon (1895) and designate *Araneus angulatus* Clerck, 1758 as the type species of the generic name *Araneus* Clerck, 1758, as proposed by Simon (1895);
  - (c) to suppress the name *Aranea* Linnaeus, 1758 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Araneus* Clerck, 1758 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Simon (1895) *Araneus angulatus* Clerck, 1758, as ruled in (1)(b) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name ARANEIDAE Clerck, 1758, type genus *Araneus* Clerck, 1758;
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Aranea* Linnaeus, 1758, as suppressed in (1)(c) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).