

## OPINION 900

THREE SPECIFIC NAMES IN THE FAMILY BELONIDAE (PISCES):  
SUPPRESSED UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

**RULING.**—(1) Under the plenary powers the following specific names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:

- (a) *acus* Lacépède, 1803, as published in the binomen *Sphyaena acus*;
- (b) *houttuyni* Walbaum, 1792, as published in the binomen *Esox houttuyni*;
- (c) *marisrubri* Schneider, 1801, in Bloch, as published in the combination *Esox belone* var. *marisrubri*.

(2) The use of the plenary powers to suppress the specific name *argalus* Le Sueur, 1821, as published in the binomen *Belona argala* is hereby refused.

(3) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *crocodila* Peron & Le Sueur, 1821, as published in the binomen *Belona crocodila* (Name No. 2352);
- (b) *imperialis* Rafinesque, 1810, as published in the binomen *Esox imperialis* (Name No. 2353);
- (c) *marinus* Walbaum, 1792, as published in the binomen *Esox marinus* (Name No. 2354).

(4) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *acus* Lacépède, 1803, as published in the binomen *Sphyaena acus*, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above (Name No. 913);
- (b) *houttuyni* Walbaum, 1792, as published in the binomen *Esox houttuyni*, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above (Name No. 914);
- (c) *marisrubri* Schneider, 1801, in Bloch, as published in the combination *Esox belone marisrubri*, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(c) above (Name No. 915).

## HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1723)

The present case was submitted to the Office of the Commission in September 1965 by Dr. B. B. Collette and Dr. F. H. Berry. The application was sent to the printers on 15 October 1965 and was published on 31 January 1966 in

*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **22** : 325–329. A comment opposing the application by Dr. G. F. Mees was published in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **23** : 149–154. Further comments were received from Prof. E. Tortonese (*ibid.* **24** : 3), and from Dr. Collette (*ibid.* **24** : 196–199) and Dr. Berry (*ibid.* **24** : 199–201). Drs. Collette and Berry's application was supported by the Nomenclature Committee of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Prof. G. A. Moore and J. S. Ramsey. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **23** : 130 and **24** : 193, as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **21** : 184).

#### DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 3 November 1967 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (67)50 either for or against each of the proposals involving the use of the plenary powers as set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **23** : 153 and **24** : 198. At the close of the prescribed voting period on 3 February 1968 the state of the voting was as follows:

##### Vote relating to *Esox houttuyni*:

Affirmative votes—fourteen (14), received in the following order: Lemche, Mayr, Evans, Vokes, Obruchev, Sabrosky, Alvarado, Uchida, Simpson, Binder, Bonnet, Mertens, Kraus, Ride.

Negative votes—seven (7): China, Holthuis, Boschma, Munroe, Jaczewski, do Amaral, Forest.

##### Vote relating to *Esox belone marisrubri*:

Affirmative votes—twelve (12): Lemche, Mayr, Evans, Vokes, Obruchev, Alvarado, Uchida, Simpson, Binder, Bonnet, Mertens, Kraus.

Negative votes—nine (9): China, Holthuis, Boschma, Sabrosky, Munroe, Jaczewski, do Amaral, Forest, Ride.

##### Vote relating to *Sphyraena acus*:

Affirmative votes—fifteen (15): China, Holthuis, Boschma, Lemche, Mayr, Evans, Munroe, Jaczewski, Uchida, do Amaral, Bonnet, Forest, Mertens, Kraus, Ride.

Negative votes—six (6): Vokes, Obruchev, Sabrosky, Alvarado, Simpson, Binder.

##### Vote relating to *Belona argalus*:

Affirmative votes—twelve (12): China, Holthuis, Boschma, Mayr, Evans, Munroe, Alvarado, Jaczewski, Uchida, do Amaral, Bonnet, Forest.

Negative votes—seven (7): Vokes, Obruchev, Simpson, Binder, Mertens, Kraus, Ride.

On Leave of Absence—one (1): Brinck.

Commissioner Tortonese returned a late affirmative vote in each case.

Thus, the proposals to suppress *Esox belone marisrubri* Bloch & Schneider, 1801, and *Belona argalus* Le Sueur, 1821, whilst gaining majorities of 12–9 and

12-7 respectively, did not gain the two-thirds majority necessary for a decision under the plenary powers. On 5 February 1969 Commissioners were therefore again invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (69)11 on the names *Esox belone marisrubri* Bloch & Schneider and *Belona argalus* Le Sueur, and also to determine which names should be placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology. Voting Paper (69)11 was divided up into three parts; *Part 1* dealt with the suppression of *Esox belone marisrubri* Bloch & Schneider and the addition of *Belona crocodila* Peron & Le Sueur to the Official List, *Part 2* dealt with the suppression of *Belona argalus* Le Sueur and *Part 3* dealt with the addition of *Esox marina* Walbaum and *Esox imperialis* Rafinesque to the Official List. At the close of the prescribed voting period on 5 May 1969 the state of the voting was as follows:

*Part 1.* Affirmative votes—twenty (20), received in the following order: China\*, Mayr, Vokes, Simpson, Eisenmann, Lemche, Munroe, Obruchev, Bonnet, Mertens, Kraus, Alvarado, Jaczewski, Sabrosky, Uchida, do Amaral, Evans, Binder, Tortonese, Forest.

Negative votes—three (3): Holthuis, Melville, Starobogatov.

*Part 2.* Affirmative votes—twelve (12): China, Mayr, Simpson, Bonnet, Alvarado, Jaczewski, Starobogatov, Uchida, do Amaral, Evans, Tortonese, Forest.

Negative votes—ten (10): Holthuis, Vokes, Eisenmann, Munroe, Obruchev, Melville, Mertens, Kraus, Sabrosky, Binder.

Commissioner Lemche abstained from voting in this part.

*Part 3.* Affirmative votes—twenty-two (22): Holthuis, Mayr, Vokes, Simpson, Eisenmann†, Lemche, Munroe<sup>1</sup>, Obruchev, Melville, Bonnet, Mertens, Kraus, Alvarado, Jaczewski, Sabrosky, Starobogatov, Uchida, do Amaral, Evans, Binder, Tortonese, Forest.

Negative votes—one (1): China<sup>2</sup>.

Voting Papers not returned—one (1): Ride.

Commissioner Brinck returned in each case a late affirmative vote.

#### ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on the Official List and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

- acus*, *Sphyræna*, Lacépède, 1803, *Hist. nat. Poiss.* 5 : 325  
*crocodila*, *Belona*, Peron & Le Sueur, 1821, *J. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* 2 : 129  
*houttuyni*, *Esox*, Walbaum, 1792, *Artedi Ichthyol.* 3 : 88  
*imperialis*, *Esox*, Rafinesque, 1810, *Carat. n. gen.* : 59  
*marinus*, *Esox*, Walbaum, 1792, *Artedi Ichthyol.* 3 : 88  
*marisrubri*, *Esox belone*, Schneider, 1801, in Bloch, *Syst. Ichth.* : 391.

\* Against the addition of *Belona crocodilo* to the Official List.

† no vote on the addition of *Esox imperialis* to the Official List.

<sup>1</sup> against the addition of *Esox imperialis* to the Official List.

<sup>2</sup> for the addition of *Esox imperialis* to the Official List.

## CERTIFICATE

We certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (67)50 and (69)11 were cast as set out above, that the proposals contained in Parts 1 and 3 of V.P. (67)50 and Parts 1 and 3 of V.P. (69)11 have been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 900.

R. V. MELVILLE  
*Secretary*

*International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*

W. E. CHINA  
*Assistant Secretary*  
London  
9 June 1969