

Case 2633

Phyllodoce (Carobia) rubiginosa Saint-Joseph, 1888 (currently also *Nereiphylla rubiginosa*; Annelida, Polychaeta): proposed conservation of the specific name

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name *rubiginosa* Saint-Joseph, 1888, as published in the combination *Phyllodoce (Carobia) rubiginosa*, for a member of the family PHYLLODOCIDAE (marine paddle worms), by suppression of the unused senior synonym *breviremis* de Quatrefages, 1865.

1. De Quatrefages (1865, p. 132) described the species *Phyllodoce breviremis* as being from Guettary [probably Guéthary, south of Biarritz, France] but did not designate a holotype. The species has since been mentioned only twice, by Fauvel (1923, p. 200) who included it under PHYLLODOCIDAE 'incertae sedis', and by Hartman (1959, p. 160) who included it in a list of species of *Phyllodoce* Savigny, 1818 as 'Doubtful'.

2. Saint-Joseph (1888, p. 282, pl. 11, figs. 141–143) described the species *Phyllodoce (Carobia) rubiginosa* (currently also *Nereiphylla rubiginosa*) from Brittany, France. No holotype was designated but the original description is detailed enough, leaving no doubt regarding the identity. The specific name has been, and still is, regarded as valid and is in use in the literature, e.g. Southern (1914, p. 69), Fauvel (1923, p. 155), Campoy (1982, p. 143); a representative list of 15 additional works is held by the Commission Secretariat.

3. I consider *Phyllodoce breviremis* and *Phyllodoce (Carobia) rubiginosa* to be conspecific. In the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris I have examined a specimen (not numbered) labelled *Phyllodoce breviremis* from de Quatrefages' collection. This specimen is from the type locality (Guéthary) and may be regarded as type material. It corresponds well to Saint Joseph's *Phyllodoce (Carobia) rubiginosa*. The latter normally should be regarded as a junior synonym but since the older name is completely out of use, to revert to its employment is not in the interest of stability, and conservation of *rubiginosa* Saint-Joseph, 1888 is therefore desirable.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *breviremis* de Quatrefages, 1865, as published in the binomen *Phyllodoce breviremis*, 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 Specific Names in Zoology the name *rubiginosa* Saint-Joseph, 1888, as published in the combination *Phyllodoce (Carobia) rubiginosa*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *breviremis* de Quatrefages, 1865, as suppressed in (1) above.

References

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