

Case 2992

***Paraprone crustulum* Claus, 1879 (Crustacea, Amphipoda): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of *Paraprone crustulum* Claus, 1879 for a pelagic amphipod (family PRONOIDAE) which is widely distributed in tropical and temperate oceans. The name is in universal use but is threatened by a senior subjective synonym which has been incorrectly used for an entirely different species. The earlier name is *Typhis rapax* Milne-Edwards, 1830, which has been regarded as a synonym of *Hemityphis tenuimanus* Claus, 1879 (family PLATYSCELIDAE) since Stephensen (1925). A recent examination of the syntypes of *T. rapax* in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris has demonstrated that they are conspecific with *P. crustulum*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Amphipoda; *Paraprone crustulum*; *Hemityphis tenuimanus*; *Hemityphis rapax*; pelagic amphipods.

1. The specific name of *Typhis rapax* was established by Milne-Edwards (1830, p. 395) for a specimen or specimens found in the latitude of the Canary Islands. The species was distinguished from another new species (*T. ferus*) by means of a key but no additional description or locality data was given. Ten years later Milne-Edwards (1840, p. 97) provided a brief description and said of the locality 'Cette espèce se trouve dans les mêmes parages que la précédente', referring to *Typhis ferus* which was captured near the Canary Islands.

2. The specific name of *Typhis rapax* is listed by Milne-Edwards (1838, p. 286), and Bate (1862, p. 329) repeated Milne-Edwards's (1840) description. Apart from these two references it is not referred to again as a species of *Typhis*; its status is considered uncertain due to the brief description and lack of illustrations. Claus (1879, p. 6) thought that Milne-Edwards's species might belong to his genus *Schizoscelus* Claus, 1879, and Bovallius (1887, p. 44) listed it as such. On the other hand, Stebbing (1888, p. 1503) believed that it most likely belonged to the PRONOIDAE.

3. Stephensen (1925, p. 220), under the specific name of *Hemityphis tenuimanus* Claus, 1879, reported 'Quite by chance we are able to prove with certainty that *Typhis rapax* is *Hemityphis tenuimanus*, in that our Zool. Mus. possesses a specimen ♂, 5 mm, somewhat defective, from the 'Atlantic', presented in Krøyer's time by Milne-Edwards under the name of *T. rapax*; though the chela of p. 2 is broken there is no doubt that it is *H. tenuimanus*'.

4. The specific name of *Hemityphis tenuimanus* was established by Claus (1879, p. 12) who gave a relatively detailed description followed by good illustrations in

1887 (pl. 4, figs. 1–13). This nominal species was therefore well established and easily recognised and, until Stephensen (1925), was referred to in the scientific literature by Stebbing (1888, p. 1472); Chevreux (1900, p. 149) and Stewart (1913, p. 259).

5. Most researchers since 1925 have accepted Stephensen's suggested synonymy of *T. rapax* and *H. tenuimanus*, referring to the species described by Claus in 1879 as *Hemityphis rapax* (Milne-Edwards, 1830). The only exceptions seem to be Spandl (1927, p. 233) who must have been unaware of Stephensen's remarks, and Vinogradov et al. (1982, p. 446) and Vinogradov (1990, p. 85; 1993, p. 46) who did not accept the proposed synonymy.

6. Recently I examined two specimens labelled *Typhis rapax* Milne-Edwards, 1830 in the collections of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN-Am4809) and determined not only that they are the syntypes but that they are the same species as *Paraproneo crustulum* Claus, 1879 (Zeidler, 1996). As mentioned above, Stebbing (1888, p. 1503) suggested that Milne-Edwards's species may belong to the PRONOIDAEE and the description given by Milne-Edwards (1840, p. 97) is not inconsistent with *P. crustulum*. In fact Milne-Edwards described the first pair of pereopoda as simple, which is unlike *H. tenuimanus* in which the first pereopoda are partly chelate.

7. The specific name of *Paraproneo crustulum* was established by Claus (1879, p. 31) who gave an adequate description, followed by good illustrations in 1887 (pl. 15, figs. 1–15). The species is readily distinguished from its three currently recognised congeners by the shape of the gnathopods and the distinct posterodistal excavation of the first epimeral plates. It is a fairly uncommon species, widely distributed in tropical and temperate regions of the world's oceans. The name *Paraproneo crustulum* has been extensively used, e.g. Shoemaker (1945, p. 246), Reid (1955, p. 24), Hurley (1960, p. 281), Dick (1970, p. 66), Yoo (1971, p. 62), Brusca (1973, p. 19), Thurston (1976, p. 437), Brusca (1981, p. 44), Vinogradov, Volkov & Semenova (1982, p. 371).

8. The rediscovery of syntype material of *Typhis rapax* Milne-Edwards, 1830 and my examination of it, confirming it to be conspecific with *Paraproneo crustulum* Claus, 1879, leads to the possibility of replacing the specific name of *crustulum* with *rapax* as the senior synonym. However, the name *rapax* has been incorrectly used as a senior synonym of *Hemityphis tenuimanus*, which belongs to a quite different family. Adoption of the earlier name for *P. crustulum* would therefore cause unnecessary confusion in the literature and I propose that it be suppressed. The valid name of the species generally known as *Hemityphis rapax* since 1925 (see para. 5 above) is *H. tenuimanus* Claus, 1879.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *rapax* Milne-Edwards, 1830, as published in the binomen *Typhis rapax*, 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 *crustulum* Claus, 1879, as published in the binomen *Paraproneo crustulum*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *rapax* Milne-Edwards, 1830, as published in the binomen *Typhis rapax* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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