Case 3198

Heteromesus Richardson, 1908 (Crustacea, Isopoda): proposed designation of *H. granulatus* Richardson, 1908 as the type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the accustomed usage of the marine isopod genus *Heteromesus* Richardson, 1908 (family ISCHNOMESIDAE), which currently contains 12 species. In 1962 *Ischnosoma thomsoni* Beddard, 1886 was designated as the type species, but this has the characters of the genus *Haplomesus* Richardson, 1908. It is proposed that *Heteromesus granulatus* Richardson, 1908 should be designated as the type species of *Heteromesus*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Crustacea; Isopoda; ISCHNOMESIDAE; *Heteromesus*; *Haplomesus*; *Heteromesus granulatus*; *Haplomesus thomsoni*; marine.

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1. Sars (1866, p. 115) established the genus *Ischnosoma* for a new species of deep-sea isopod, *I. bispinosum*. Richardson (1908, p. 81) divided the six species then included in *Ischnosoma* among four new genera: *Ischnomesus* (a replacement name for *Ischnosoma* Sars, a junior homonym of the name *Ischnosoma* as used twice in 1829 for genera of fish and beetles), *Haplomesus*, *Heteromesus* and *Rhabdomesus*.

2. The type species of *Ischnomesus* is *Ischnosoma bispinosum* Sars, 1866 (Article 67.8 of the Code), and that of *Haplomesus* is *Ischnosoma quadrispinosus* Sars, 1879 (p. 432) by monotypy. Richardson (1908) included five species in her genus *Heteromesus*: *Ischnosoma thomsoni* Beddard, 1886 (p. 169, fig. 1), *I. spinosum* Beddard, 1886, *I. greeni* Tattersall, 1906 and the two new species *Heteromesus granulatus* (p. 82, figs. 14–18) and *H. spinescens* (p. 83, fig. 19). No type species was selected for *Heteromesus*.

3. In a revision of many crustacean families, Hansen (1916) synonymised *Rhabdomesus* with *Ischnomesus*. Hansen placed *Ischnomesus*, *Haplomesus* and *Heteromesus* in a new family-group taxon, the ISCHNOMESINI (p. 54), which has subsequently been used at family rank. Hansen's diagnoses of these genera (pp. 56, 59 and 66 respectively) are widely accepted today.

4. Birstein (1960, p. 6) transferred *Ischnosoma thomsoni* from *Heteromesus* to *Haplomesus*, and included in the latter genus the two new species *Haplomesus brevispinis* (p. 11, fig. 7) and *Haplomesus cornutus* (p. 12, figs. 8, 9); see also Birstein (1963). Wolff (1962) referred to the type specimen of *Ischnosoma thomsoni* in The Natural History Museum, London, and supported Birstein's placement of this

species in *Haplomesus*. The taxonomic differences between *Haplomesus* and *Heteromesus* given by Richardson (1908) and Hansen (1916) have formed the basis of the keys (Wolff, 1962; Menzies, 1962) to genera and species which are in current use.

5. Twelve species belong to *Heteromesus* as now understood, the most recently described being *H. wolffi* and *H. drachi* Chardy, 1974 (p. 1543, figs. 4, 5 and p. 1546, figs. 6, 7). *Heteromesus* has appeared in other recent works on the taxonomic diversity and ecology of the deep sea (e.g. Menzies, George & Rowe, 1973; Wolff, 1976; Gooday, 1984; Thistle & Wilson, 1987; Kussakin, 1988; Svavarsson, Strömberg & Brattegard, 1993; Svavarsson & Davidsdóttir, 1994; Brandt, 1997).

6. Although Birstein (1960) had transferred *Ischnosoma thomsoni* Beddard, 1886 from *Heteromesus* to *Haplomesus*, a placement supported by Wolff (1962) (see para. 4 above) and by later authors, Menzies (1962, p. 121) designated *I. thomsoni* as the type species of *Heteromesus*. This action effectively made *Heteromesus* a subjective synonym of *Haplomesus* and, if accepted, would leave the 12 species currently thought to belong to *Heteromesus* outside any named genus.

7. No authors have referred to Menzies' (1962) designation of *I. thomsoni* as the type species for *Heteromesus*. His action would require the creation of a new generic name for what is currently accepted as *Heteromesus*. In order to preserve current usage and avoid instability or confusion we propose, under Article 70.2 of the Code, that *I. thomsoni* should be set aside as the type species and be replaced by the originally included species *Heteromesus granulatus* Richardson, 1908. The holotype of *H. granulatus*, from south of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, U.S.A., is specimen No. 38969 in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

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

(1) to use its plenary power to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Heteromesus* Richardson, 1908 and to designate *Heteromesus granulatus* Richardson, 1908 as the type species;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Heteromesus* Richardson, 1908 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) above *Heteromesus granulatus* Richardson, 1908;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *granulatus* Richardson, 1908, as published in the binomen *Heteromesus granulatus* (specific name of the type species of *Heteromesus* Richardson, 1908).

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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 The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).