

PROPOSALS CONCERNING HOMONYMOUS FAMILY-GROUP NAMES
BASED ON THE GENERIC NAMES *DREPANA* SCHRANK, 1802
(CLASS INSECTA, ORDER LEPIDOPTERA), AND *DREPANIS*
TEMMINCK, 1820 (CLASS AVES); REQUEST FOR THE USE OF THE
PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS THE GENERIC NAME *DREPANIS*
BRISSON, 1760. Z.N.(S.) 901

By Dean Amadon (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) and John Franclemont (*New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*)

The present case arises out of the use of the same word, *DREPANIDAE*, for a family of birds (type-genus *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820) and for a family of moths (type-genus *Drepana* Schrank, 1802). The case is a simple one except for the fact that the bird generic name involved is a junior homonym of *Drepanis* Brisson, 1760, a name which, so far as is known, has never been used since its first publication.

2. The nominal genus *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820 (*Man. d'Orn.* (ed. 2) 1 : lxxvi) was proposed with three species definitely included and a fourth species doubtfully referred to the genus. No type-species was designated or indicated. Of the three species definitely included in the genus, *Certhia pacifica* Gmelin, 1788 (*in* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1(1) : 470) was designated as type-species by G. R. Gray, 1840 (*List Genera Birds* : 12). This is the earliest type-designation known for the genus, and the specific name in question is the oldest available name for its species.

3. The oldest family-group name based on this generic name is *DREPANIDIDAE* H. Gadow, 1891, *in* S. B. Wilson & A. H. Evans, *Aves Hawaiienses* (2) : 235. The same spelling was used by Wilson & Evans in the introduction to this work (: xxiv), but this appears to have been published later, and Gadow is always regarded as the author of the name. The spelling *DREPANIDAE* was used by P. Sushkin, 1929, *Verh. VI Int. Ornith. Kongr.* Copenhagen : 375, while E. Mayr (1943, *Condor* 45 : 46) maintained that the correct spelling should be *DREPANIIDAE*.

4. The senior homonym mentioned in paragraph 1 above is *Drepanis* Brisson, 1760 (*Ornithologie* 2 : 506). In speaking of the sand-martin (or bank-swallow), Brisson said "*Hirundo riparia* sive *Drepanis*", so that *Hirundo riparia* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 192 is the type-species by monotypy. This species, which is not related to the Hawaiian honey-creepers for which Temminck used the generic name *Drepanis*, is referred to the genus *Riparia* Forster, 1817 (*Syn. Cat. brit. Birds* : 17), of which the type-species, by monotypy, is *Riparia europaea* Forster, 1817, *ibid.* Forster's specific name was proposed, however, as a replacement name for *riparia* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Hirundo*), presumably to avoid tautonymy, and is therefore a junior objective synonym of the latter. *Hirundo riparia* Linnaeus thus becomes, under Declaration 21, the type-species of *Riparia* Forster, 1817. It is recommended

that the Commission use its plenary powers to suppress *Drepanis* Brisson, 1760, so as to validate (a) the junior homonym *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820, and (b) the junior objective synonym *Riparia* Forster, 1817.

5. The generic name *Drepanis* was also used by Rafinesque, 1815 (*Analyse de la Nature* : 69), but this name is a *nomen nudum*, as shown by Richmond (1909, *Auk*. 26 : 37-55). It should therefore be placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

6. The nominal genus *Drepana* Schrank, 1802, *Fauna Boica* 2(2) : 155, has as type-species *Phalaena falcatoria* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 519, by subsequent designation by Westwood, 1840, *Introd. Mod. Class. Ins.*, Synopsis : 104. Hübner, [1819], *Verz. bekannt. Schmett.* (10) : 140, emended the generic name to *Drepania* and used it as the basis of the "Coitus" name "Drepaniae", but Hübner's Coitus names are not generally accepted as family-group names, and indeed it appears that they ought not to be so, for they were used as plural epithets for the members of a genus rather than for suprageneric taxa. At the next higher level Hübner used the "Stirps" name "Platypterices", but this is not a valid family-group name since it was not based on the name of an included nominal genus. Boisduval, [Nov. 1828], used the tribe name DREPANULIDI (*Eur. Lep. Ind. meth.* : 55), and this, though incorrectly formed from the generic name, should be accepted as the first family-group name based on *Drepana* Schrank, 1802. It has priority over PLATYPTERICIDAE [sic] Stephens, 1829 (1 June), *Nomencl. brit. Ins.* : 45, based on the generic name *Platypteryx* Laspeyres, 1803, *N. Schrift. Ges. naturf. Freunde* 4 : 29; and this generic name is in any case a junior objective synonym of *Drepana* Schrank, 1802, for *Phalaena falcatoria* Linnaeus, 1758 was designated as its type-species by Curtis, 1835, *Brit. Ent.* : pl. 555. The family-name DREPANIDAE was first correctly spelled by Comstock, 1893, *Wilder Quarter-Century Book* : 98, 110.

7. Professor L. W. Grensted, Consulting Classical Adviser to the Commission, reported as follows on the formation of the family-group names involved in this case: "*Drepana* is undoubtedly derived directly from the Greek δρεπάνη, a sickle, and not from the Latin neuter plural place name *Drepana*. In any case, the family name must be DREPANIDAE. *Drepanis* is the Greek δρεπάνις, found in Aristotle, with stem δρεπανιδ. I have no doubt that Gadow and those who have followed him took this as sufficient to establish DREPANIDIDAE as the family name. Unfortunately *drepanis* occurs in late Latin once (in Pliny, *Nat. Hist.*), with genitive *drepanis* and not, as it should be, *drepanidis*. My feeling is, however, that the Commission must confirm DREPANIDIDAE in view of the existence of DREPANIDAE in Insecta, where it is inevitably right. This can be defended on the grounds (1) of convenience, to keep the distinction from DREPANIDAE clear, (2) of the definite origin from the Greek δρεπάνις, with the undoubted stem δρεπανιδ as certified by Liddell & Scott's Greek Lexicon, and (3) of the constant usage in classical Latin whereby such stems were retained in forming the Latin genitive. Against this there is only the single use of the word by Pliny, and it may be argued that this is so unusual that there must be some explanation, unknown to us, for the irregularity. There is no case for the other alternative

DREPANIIDAE. It is now the rule (since E. Mayr wrote in 1943) that the grammatical stem ending in a vowel is not that to be used in forming family names, but that the termination -IDAE is simply substituted for the genitive termination (*Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 34, paragraph 50(1), a)." Professor Grensted's help in thus clarifying the family-group name problem is gratefully acknowledged.

8. In view of the facts set out above, we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Drepanis* Brisson, 1760 for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology :
 - (a) *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820 (gender : feminine), type-species, by selection by G. R. Gray, 1840, *Certhia pacifica* Gmelin, 1788 (Class Aves) ;
 - (b) *Riparia* Forster, 1817 (gender : feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Hirundo riparia* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Aves) ;
 - (c) *Drepana* Schrank, 1802 (gender : feminine), type-species, by selection by Westwood, 1840, *Phalaena falcataria* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) ;
- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology :
 - (a) *pacifica* Gmelin, 1788, as published in the binomen *Certhia pacifica* (type-species of *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820) ;
 - (b) *riparia* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Hirundo riparia* (type-species of *Riparia* Forster, 1817) ;
 - (c) *falcataria* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalaena falcataria* (type-species of *Drepana* Schrank, 1802) ;
- (4) to place the following generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology :
 - (a) *Drepanis* Brisson, 1760, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above ;
 - (b) *Platypteryx* Laspeyres, 1803, a junior objective synonym of *Drepana* Schrank, 1802
 - (c) *Drepanis* Rafinesque, 1815, a *nomen nudum* ;
 - (d) *Drepania* Hübner, [1819], an unjustified emendation of *Drepana* Schrank, 1802 ;
- (5) to place the following names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology :
 - (a) DREPANIDIDAE Gadow, 1891 (type-genus *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820) ;
 - (b) DREPANIDAE Boisduval [Nov. 1828] (correction of DREPANULIDI) (type-genus *Drepana* Schrank, 1802) ;
- (6) to place the following names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology :
 - (a) DREPANIDAE Sushkin, 1829, an unjustified emendation of DREPANIDI-

- DAE Gadow, 1891 (type-genus *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820) ;
 (b) DREPANIIDAE Mayr, 1943, an unjustified emendation of DREPANID-
 IDAE Gadow, 1891 (type-genus *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820) ;
 (c) DREPANULIDI Boisduval, [Nov. 1828], an incorrect original
 spelling of DREPANIDAE (type-genus *Drepana* Schrank, 1802) ;
 (d) PLATYPTERICIDAE [sic] Stephens, 1831, invalid because the name
 of its type-genus (*Platypteryx* Laspeyres, 1803) is a junior
 objective synonym.

COMMENTS ON THE USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS THE SPECIFIC
 NAME *SACCHARIVORA* PETERKIN, 1790 (PHALAENA). Z.N.(S.) 1315

(See this volume, pages 56-60.)

By F. D. Bennett and F. J. Simmonds

(Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control, Trinidad, W.I.)

I fully support Mr. Harold Box's proposal (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 17, nos. 1-2, pp. 56-60, September 1959) that the use of the plenary powers to suppress the name *saccharivora* Peterkin, 1790 (*Phalaena*) and to place the generic name *Diatraea* Guilding, 1828, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) be invoked.

By C. E. Pemberton (*Experimental Station, Hawaiian Sugar Planters
 Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.*)

In the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, Volume 17, Part 1-2, pages 56-60, dated 1 October 1959, appears a communication by Harold E. Box appealing for the retention of the well-established name, *Diatraea saccharalis* (F.) for one of the most notorious and destructive insect pests of sugar cane.

My colleagues and I most heartily approve the reasoning presented by Mr. Box in his communication and sincerely hope that this name will not be altered.

By J. R. Metcalfe (*Department of Science and Agriculture, Barbados, W.I.*)

With reference to the paper by H. E. Box which appeared in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, Vol. 17, Nos. 1-2, pp. 56-60, I would like to say that I fully support his suggestion that the sugar cane moth-borer should remain known as *Diatraea saccharalis* (F.) and that the name *saccharivora* Peterkin should be suppressed.

By E. L. Martin (*Bourne End, Bucks, England*)

I would like to give my full support for Mr. Box's application. It is not necessary for me to repeat the arguments for the suppression of the specific name *saccharivora* Peterkin : a name which would have remained unknown in the absence of Mr. Box's researches. It is highly desirable that *Diatraea saccharalis* Fabricius shall be the name accepted for this important sugar-cane borer.



Amadou, Dean and Franclemont, John G. 1960. "Proposals concerning homonymous family-group names based on the generic names *Drepana* Schrank, 1802 (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera), and *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820 (Class Aves) ; request for the use of the Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Dre*." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 17, 220–223.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.29595>.

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