

## OPINION 1139

PARAONIS GRUBE, 1873 (POLYCHAETA, PARAONIDAE):  
DESIGNATION OF A TYPE SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY  
POWERS

## RULING — (1) Under the plenary powers

- (a) all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genus *Paraonis* Grube, 1873, are hereby set aside, and the nominal species *Aonides fulgens* Levinsen, 1884, is hereby designated type species of that genus;
- (b) it is hereby ruled that the family-group name PARAONIDAE Cerruti, 1909, is to be given precedence over the family-group name LEVINSENIIDAE Mesnil & Caullery, 1898, whenever the two names are held to be synonyms.

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

- (a) *Paraonis* Grube, 1873 (gender: feminine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above, *Aonides fulgens* Levinsen, 1884 (Name Number 2087);
- (b) *Levinsenia* Mesnil, 1897 (gender: feminine), type species, by subsequent designation under the present ruling, *Aonides gracilis* Tauber, 1879 (Name Number 2088).

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

- (a) *fulgens*, *Aonides*, Levinsen, 1884 (specific name of type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above, of *Paraonis* Grube, 1873) (Name Number 2687);
- (b) *gracilis*, *Aonides*, Tauber, 1879 (specific name of type species of *Levinsenia* Mesnil 1897 (Name Number 2688)).

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology with the endorsements and Name Numbers specified:

- (a) PARAONIDAE Cerruti, 1909 (type genus *Paraonis* Grube, 1873) with an endorsement that it is to be given precedence over LEVINSENIIDAE Mesnil &



Caullery, 1898, whenever the two names are regarded as synonyms (Name Number 500);

- (b) LEVINSENIIDAE Mesnil & Caullery, 1898 (as "Lévinvéniens") (type genus *Levinnesia* Mesnil, 1897) with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over PARAONIDAE Cerruti, 1909, whenever the two names are regarded as synonyms (Name Number 501).

#### HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 1993

An application for the regulation of nomenclatural problems concerning the generic name *Paraonis* Grube, 1873, was first received from Dr V. Strelzov (*Institut Biologique de Mer, Murmansk, USSR*) and Dr P. Uschakov (*Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, USSR*) on 20 January 1972. This application, which asked for the suppression of *Paraonis* Grube, 1873, in favour of "*Paraonis* Cerruti, 1909", was sent to the printer on 13 April 1972 and published on 29 December 1972 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 29: 209–211. Support was received from Dr Gesa Hartmann-Schröder (*Zoologisches Institut und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, BRD*).

In June 1973 the Secretary wrote to the applicants to explore ways of conserving *Paraonis* with its original date and authorship. The applicants commented on their own proposals in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31: 9. After consultation with Dr J.D. George (*British Museum (Natural History) London*) and Dr Marian H. Pettibone (*National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C.*), a revised application was published in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 32: 146–148. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory journals and to five other serials. No comments were received on this application.

#### DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 22 November 1977 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1977)19 for or against the proposals set forth in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 32: 147–148. At the close of the voting period on 22 February 1978, the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes – seventeen (17), received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Eisenmann, Alvarado, Vokes, Mroczkowski, Sabrosky, Tortonese, Welch, Corliss, Starobogatov, Cogger, Dupuis, Nye, Bayer, Heppell, Ride

Negative Votes – none (0).



A late affirmative vote was received from Brinck. No voting papers were returned by Bernardi, Binder, Habe, Kraus and Willink.

Dr Ride commented with his voting paper: "*P. tenera* Grube, 1873, is a potential source of confusion and should be suppressed unless the application fails. In that case, the type specimen of *A. fulgens* Levinsen, 1883, if suitable, could be made the neotype of *P. tenera* Grube, 1873, to achieve the same end." [The object of the application — i.e. to stabilise the generic name *Paraonis* — is achieved by varying its type species; the interpretation, at specific level, of *P. tenera* then becomes irrelevant. Dr Ride's suggestion, if adopted, would make *Paraonis* and *Levinsenia* objective synonyms of one another. This would lead in turn to an objective synonymy between PARAONIDAE and LEVINSENIIDAE, but this was not the object sought by the applicants. R.V.M.]

In April 1978 the Secretary realised that the decision to settle the relative precedence of PARAONIDAE and LEVINSENIIDAE entailed a decision to place the names of the type genera of both families (and not only of PARAONIDAE), with the names of their type species, on the Official Lists. He therefore sought advice from Dr George on this point and found that it was necessary for the Commission to rule on the type species of *Levinsenia* Mesnil, 1897 — a nominal genus for which no type species had previously been fixed. He therefore invited the Commission to vote on this issue in Voting Paper (78)20, and sent the following report with that voting paper.

"THE CASE OF *PARAONIS* GRUBE, 1873: CALL FOR A  
SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE TO DETERMINE THE TYPE SPECIES  
OF *LEVINSENIA* MESNIL, 1897  
(Report to accompany V.P. (78)20)

"In V.P. (77)19 the Commission voted to use its plenary powers to designate *Aonides fulgens* Levinsen, 1883, as the type species of the Polychaete genus *Paraonis* Grube, 1873, and to give the family name PARAONIDAE Cerruti, 1909, precedence over LEVINSENIIDAE Mesnil & Caullery, 1898. As a corollary to that decision, the Commission voted to place both those family names on the Official List.

"It follows from the latter decision that the names of the type genera of both families, with those of their type species, must be placed on the Official Lists of Generic and Specific Names in Zoology. This was duly voted on and approved where *Paraonis* was concerned (as a corollary to the plenary powers vote by which the type species had been designated), but the need to do likewise for *Levinsenia* was overlooked. You are now asked to vote on this issue



so as to complete the case.

"*Levinsenia* was established by Mesnil in 1897 (*Bull. sci. France Belgique*, vol. 30: 93) with two included species: *Aonides gracilis* Tauber, 1879, *Annulata Danica*, vol. 1: 115, and *Aonides fulgens* Levinsen, 1884, *Videnskab. Medd. naturh. Forening København* for 1883, 1884: 101–103. (The date of this name was incorrectly given as 1883 in the application). Neither was designated as type species. Mr Alex Muir (*British Museum, Natural History*), guided by Dr David George, has made a thorough search of the literature and has not found any subsequent designation of a type species for the genus. Since *Aonides fulgens* Levinsen has been designated as type species of *Paraonis*, it would obviously be appropriate to designate *Aonides gracilis* Tauber, 1879, as type species of *Levinsenia*, and I invite you to vote for or against that proposition on the accompanying voting paper."

The voting period on V.P. (78)20 ran from 5 September 1978 to 5 December 1978. At the close of the period the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes – sixteen (16) received in the following order: Melville, Alvarado, Mroczkowski, Eisenmann, Vokes, Brinck, Willink, Tortonese, Cogger, Binder, Bayer, Dupuis, Corliss, Nye, Welch, Bernardi

Negative Vote – Holthuis.

Ride and Sabrosky were on leave of absence. No votes were returned by Habe, Heppell, Kraus and Starobogatov.

Dr Holthuis commented with his voting paper: "By selecting *A. fulgens* Levinsen as type species of *Levinsenia* Mesnil, 1897, the latter falls as a junior objective synonym of *Paraonis* Grube, 1873, which is an elegant way of making the synonymy of the two names absolute." [This suggestion would have the same effect as that made by Dr Ride on V.P. (77)19 and discussed above – namely, of making PARAONIDAE and LEVINSENIIDAE objective synonyms of one another. This was not the object sought by the applicants. R.V.M.]

## ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*fulgens*, *Aonides*, Levinsen, 1884, *Videnskab. Medd. naturh. Forening København* for 1883: 101–103  
*gracilis*, *Aonides*, Tauber, 1879, *Annulata Danica*, vol. 1: 115  
*Levinsenia* Mesnil, 1897. *Bull. sci. France Belgique*, vol. 30: 93



LEVINSENIIDAE Mesnil & Caullery, 1898, *Bull. sci. France Belgique*, vol. 31: 137

*Paraonis* Grube, 1873, *Jber. schles. Ges. vaterl. Kult.*, vol. 50: 57

PARAONIDAE Cerruti, 1909, *Mitt. zool. Stn Neapel*, vol. 19: 503.

### CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Papers (77)19 and (78)20 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in the former voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1139.

R.V. MELVILLE

*Secretary*

*International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*

*London*

*30 March 1979*



International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1979. "Opinion 1139. Paraonis Grube, 1873 (Polychaeta, Paraonidae): designation of a type species under the plenary powers." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 36, 114–118.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44478>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/28808>

**Holding Institution**

Natural History Museum Library, London

**Sponsored by**

Natural History Museum Library, London

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.