

OPINION 1324

DIADEMODON SEELEY, 1894 AND *DIADEMODON TETRAGONUS* SEELEY, 1894 CONSERVED BY THE SUPPRESSION OF *CYNOCHAMPSA OWEN*, 1859 AND *CYNOCHAMPSA LANIARIA* OWEN, 1859 (REPTILIA, THERAPSIDA)

RULING. — (1) Under the plenary powers, the following names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:

(a) the generic name *Cynochampsia* Owen, 1859;

(b) the specific name *laniaria* Owen, 1859, as published in the binomen *Cynochampsia laniaria*.

(2) The generic name *Diademodon* Seeley, 1894 (gender: masculine), type species, by original designation, *Diademodon tetragonus* Seeley, 1894, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2266.

(3) The specific name *tetragonus* Seeley, 1894, as published in the binomen *Diademodon tetragonus* (specific name of type species of *Diademodon* Seeley, 1984) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2973.

(4) The generic name *Cynochampsia* Owen, 1859, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2163.

(5) The specific name *laniaria* Owen, 1859, as published in the binomen *Cynochampsia laniaria*, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1151.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2249

An application for the conservation of the generic name *Diademodon* Seeley, 1894 and the specific name *tetragonus* Seeley, 1894 as published in combination with *Diademodon*, was first received from Dr Fred Grine (*University of Witwatersrand, South Africa*) on 23 June 1980. After some correspondence it was sent to the printer on 24 February 1981 and published on 11 March 1982 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 39, pp. 50–53. 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 serials, to seven general serials, three herpetological serials and two palaeontological serials. Support was received from Dr C. E. Gow (*University of the Witwatersrand*) and Dr M. A. Cluver (*South African Museum, Cape Town*). No adverse comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 13 September 1984 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1984)54 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 39, pp. 52–53. At the close of the voting period on 13 December 1984 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes — fifteen (15) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Brinck, Willink, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Starobogatov, Sabrosky, Alvarado, Ride, Kraus, Corliss, Schuster, Bayer, Binder

Negative Votes — five (5) received in the following order: Cocks, Hahn, Mroczkowski, Heppell, Dupuis.

Lehtinen returned a late affirmative vote. No voting papers were returned by Bernardi, Cogger, Halvorsen and Savage.

The following comments were returned by members of the Commission with their votes:

Cocks: 'The issues do not seem to me to be sufficiently important to invoke plenary powers and I would sink *Diademodon* in the normal way.'

Hahn: 'The synonymy between *Cynochampsia laniaria* and *Diademodon tetragonus* has not been, and cannot be, proved because *Cynochampsia* is founded on an isolated snout that lacks all important diagnostic features. Thus *Cynochampsia* and *Diademodon* may be synonyms but are not necessarily so. The Commission should therefore not suppress *Cynochampsia laniaria* completely, but only so far as it competes with *Diademodon tetragonus*.'

Mroczkowski: 'I think that the "relative precedence" procedure should have been adopted in this case.'

Ride: Although, strictly speaking, the replacement of *Diademodon* by *Cynochampsia* would not cause any ambiguity (*Cynochampsia* has never been used for anything else), the uncertain stratigraphic position of *C. laniaria* would undoubtedly introduce instability and uncertainty into the application of the names of this important group. I consider that the use of the plenary powers is justified on that ground.'

Heppell: 'This seems too subjective for me to give my vote in favour of the proposal. The author does not establish that the usage of *Diademodon* by the authors cited was notwithstanding their acceptance of *Cynochampsia* as a senior synonym, even at the generic level. From the evidence presented, most, if not all, of these authors could have regarded *C. laniaria* as a *Diademodontid incertae sedis*. It is also not clear why the author states "Owen's 1859 paper was published unaltered in 1860" yet dates *C. laniaria* from the later paper. Were the names *nomina nuda* in 1859?'

[On receiving Mr Heppell's comment I made further enquiries into the circumstances surrounding *Cynochampsia laniaria*. The name was published twice by Owen in the publications of the Geological Society of London. The first occasion was in the *Abstracts of Proceedings* no. 31, p.

116. This is part of the proceedings for the Session 1858–59 and deals with the meeting of 20 April 1859. The Librarian of the Society tells me that these Abstracts would certainly have been published in 1859. The binomen is there accompanied by a full description and is available. The second occasion was in the Society's *Quarterly Journal*, vol. 16, pt. 1, Proceedings, p. 61, pl. 3, figs. 1–4, dated 1860. Both components of the binomen therefore date from 1859 and this has been taken as their date in drafting the present Ruling. R.V.M.]

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

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

- Cynochampsia* Owen, 1859, *Q. J. geol. Soc. London* (1) *Proc. geol. Soc. London*, vol. 16, p. 61
- Diademodon* Seeley, 1894, *Phil. Trans. roy. Soc. London* (B) vol. 185, p. 1030
- laniaria*, *Cynochampsia* Owen, 1859, *Q. J. geol. Soc. London* (1) *Proc. geol. Soc. London*, vol. 16, p. 61
- tetragonus*, *Diademodon*, Seeley, 1894, *Phil. Trans. roy. Soc. London*, (B) vol. 185, p. 1030.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P.(84)54 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that 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. 1324.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

5 February 1985