OPINION 2037 (Cases 3120 and 3120a)

LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) (Scorpiones): adopted as a valid substitute name for ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879 in order to remove homonymy with ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 (Insecta, Odonata)

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the scorpion family name LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) is to have precedence over ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879, which is a homonym of the widely used damselfly name ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 (Odonata). The type genus of LIOCHELIDAE is Liocheles Sundevall, 1833, which is in wide use as the valid senior subjective synonym of the long abandoned name Ischnurus C.L. Koch, 1837 (the type genus of ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879). ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 is not to be rejected despite being a junior homonym of ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Scorpiones; Odonata; ISCHNURIDAE; LIOCHELIDAE; COENAGRIONIDAE; Liocheles; Ischnura; scorpions; damselflies.

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that:
   (a) the name LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 is to be given precedence over the name ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879;
   (b) the name ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 (Odonata) is not to be treated as invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879 (Scorpiones).

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
   (a) Ischnura Charpentier, 1840 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Selys-Longchamps (1850) Agrion elegans Van der Linden, 1823 (type genus of ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957);
   (b) Liocheles Sundevall, 1833 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy Scorpio australasiae Fabricius, 1775 (type genus of LIOCHELIDAE Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879)).

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
   (a) elegans Van der Linden, 1823, as published in the binomen Agrion elegans (specific name of the type species of Ischnura Charpentier, 1840);
   (b) australasiae Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen Scorpio australasiae (specific name of the type species of Liocheles Sundevall, 1833).

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
   (a) ISCHNURINAE Fraser, 1957 (type genus Ischnura Charpentier, 1840; Odonata), with the endorsement that it is not to be treated as invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of ISCHNURIDAE Simon, 1879 (Scorpiones):
(b) **LIOCHELIDAE** Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) (type genus *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833; Scorpiones), with the endorsement that it has precedence over the name **ISCHNURIDAE** Simon, 1879.

(5) The name **ISCHNURIDAE** Simon, 1879 (type genus *Ischnurus* C.L. Koch, 1837; Scorpiones), with the endorsement that it is to be treated as junior to **LIOCHELIDAE** Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) (type genus *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833), is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology.

**History of Cases 3120 and 3120a**

An application submitted by Victor Fet (Department of Biological Sciences, Marshall University, West Virginia, U.S.A.) and Günter Bechly (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Rosenstein 1, D-70191 Stuttgart, Germany), proposing emendation of the name *Ischnurinae* Fraser, 1857 to *Ischnurainae*, was published as Case 3120 (BZN 57: 26–28). However, once it was realised that the introduction of the family name **LIOCHELIDAE** (based on *Liocheles* Sundevall, 1833, which is universally used as the senior synonym of *Ischnura* C.L. Koch, 1837) avoided this undesirable change, the case was modified.

A second version of this application was submitted on 10 February 1999. This time the application focused on the adoption of the new scorpion family name **LIOCHELIDAE** Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879) as a valid substitute name for **ISCHNURIDAE** Simon, 1879. After correspondence the application was published as Case 3120a in BZN 58: 280–281 (December 2001). The title, abstract and keywords of this case were published on the Commission’s website. Comments in support of the revised application (Case 3120a) were published in BZN 59: 38.

**Decision of the Commission**

On 1 December 2002 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on proposals (3) and (4) published in BZN 57: 27 and the proposals published in BZN 58: 281. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2003 the votes were as follows: 19 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 4 Commissioners (Alonso-Zarazaga, Bouquet, Fortey and Stys) voted AGAINST, Böhme abstained, no vote was received from Mahnert, Ng was on leave of absence.

Voting against, Alonso-Zarazaga commented that ‘in this case priority should apply; **ISCHNURIDAE** Simon, 1879 is widely used in Scorpiones and substitution of this name is both contrary to priority and to stability. Emendation of **ISCHNURINAE** Fraser, 1957 to **ISCHNURAINAE** is the simplest course to follow, as well as the closest to the Code. This would avoid the creation of another name (**LIOCHELIDAE**) whose usefulness is doubtful’.

**Original references**

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Ischnura Charpentier, 1840, Libellulinae Europaeae descriptae ac depictae, p. 20.
Ischnurinae Fraser, 1957, A reclassification of the order Odonata, p. 49.
Liocheles Sundevall, 1833, Conspectus Arachnidianum, p. 31.
Liochelidae Fet & Bechly, 2001 (1879), BZN 58: 281.

The following is the reference for the subsequent designation of Agrion elegans Van der Linden, 1823 as the type species of Ischnura Charpentier, 1840: