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All this becomes unnecessary when the Code is followed. The only changes then would be *Trichia* Hartmann, 1840 substituted by *Trochulus* Alten, 1812, and the family-group name TRICHIINAE Lozek, 1956 substituted by TROCHULINAE Lindholm, 1927.

The question is, is all the trouble to conserve *Trichia* Hartmann, 1840 justified? So far as I know the genus is not of any importance in medicine or applied science and is best known only to taxonomists and amateur malacologists. The fact that *Trichia* Hartmann was recognized the type of a family group as late as 1956 also does not speak for a great importance of the genus. Furthermore, there is no long-standing uniformity in the use of *Trichia* for the molluscs. The name *Fruticicola* Held, 1837 was for a long time used for the type species of *Trichia* and I have always known the taxon as *Fruticicola hispida* (Linnaeus, 1758), a name used certainly beyond the middle of the 20th century (cf. para. 4 of the application). The name *Trichia* Hartmann has always been rather controversial because of the simultaneous use of *Trichia* De Haan, 1839 in Crustacea. Furthermore, *Trochulus* is not an entirely unknown name and has been used during the 20th century. The family-group name based on it (TROCHULINAE Lindholm, 1927) long before that based on *Trichia* Hartmann demonstrates this.

Concluding, I wish to remark that the discovery of Trichia Hoffman, 1790 as the oldest homonym, invalidating both Trichia De Haan, 1839 and Trichia Hartmann, 1840, is more or less a blessing, wiping away the controversy over priority between the crustacean and molluscan names. It means that there is no longer ambiguity over whether the crustacean or the molluscan name Trichia is meant, and no numerous and complicated manoeuvres by the Commission are needed to save the least deserving of the three names. In Crustacea the disappearance of the name Trichia has been accepted by all the workers that I contacted, and the replacement by Zalasius Rathbun, 1897 will not cause much confusion, especially when accepted immediately. I would expect that in Mollusca the disappearance of Trichia Hartmann will not do much harm, especially as the name of the genus has changed several times in its history, and a period of stability can be expected with the introduction of Trochulus. The latter name has not been used for other genera and there is no question of switching it from one genus to another. The only argument for starting the complicated machinery of the Commission for saving Trichia Hartmann, 1840 is its frequent usage in the last ten years, but in Myxomycetes (or Mycetozoa) Trichia has clearly been used unambiguously for a much longer period of time. My plea is that in this case the Code should be strictly applied, this being the most simple and least time consuming procedure.

Comment on the proposed conservation of *Polydora websteri* Hartmann in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943 (Annelida, Polychaeta) by a ruling that it is not to be treated as a replacement name for *P. caeca* Webster, 1879, and designation of a lectotype for *P. websteri*

(Case 3080; see BZN 55: 212-216; 57: 43-45)

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Jason D. Williams

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In a recent paper in *Ophelia* (October 1999) we described a new spionid polychaete as *Polydora neocaeca*. The new nominal species, a boring mudworm, was based on material from Rhode Island and has its own holotype, description and type locality (see paras. 6 and 10 of the application; Williams & Radashevsky, 1999; and comments by Drs Geoffrey B. Read and Mary E. Petersen in BZN 57: 44 and 45, March 2000). We believe this to be the same taxon as *P. caeca* Webster, 1879, the name for which is a junior secondary homonym of *P. coeca* (Örsted, 1843), a tube-dwelling spionid.

In a single place in our paper (Williams & Radashevsky, 1999, p. 116) we unfortunately noted that 'Polydora neocaeca is described to replace the permanently invalid name P. caeca'. This might indicate that we proposed neocaeca as a replacement name (nomen novum) for caeca Webster (and, in this situation, neocaeca would automatically have had the same type material as caeca).

To avoid any ambiguity we should like to clarify the nomenclatural status of *Polydora neocaeca* Williams & Radashevsky, 1999. The name was established as that of a new nominal species, and not as a replacement (nomen novum) for *P. caeca* Webster. We believe that *P. neocaeca* represents the same taxon as Webster described, but the synonymy is subjective and not objective.

Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Hybognathus* stramineus Cope, 1865 (currently *Notropis stramineus*; Osteichthyes, Cypriniformes) (Case 3131; see BZN 56: 240-246)

(1) David A. Etnier

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-1610, U.S.A.

I have read and am familiar with the application to conserve the specific name of *Notropis stramineus* (Cope, 1865) for the common North American minnow called the sand shiner.

Wayne Starnes and I (Etnier & Starnes, 1993) were aware of Mayden & Gilbert's (1989) recognition of the obscure and unused *Notropis ludibundus* (Girard, 1856) as an earlier name for the sand shiner, and had learned by personal communication with Prof R.M. Bailey that applications were in preparation to conserve both *Notropis topeka* (C.H. Gilbert, 1884) (mentioned in para. 10 of the current application) and *N. stramineus*. This information was made generally available to North American ichthyologists in the fifth edition of the checklist of *Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada* (Robins et al., 1991) (para. 5 of the application). In 1993 we followed Article 23b of the 1985 Code and retained the use of *Notropis stramineus* while the case was in prepartion, as did Jenkins & Burkhead (1994) for the same reason.

In my view a very few uninformed or deliberate recent uses of *Notropis ludibundus* as the name for the sand shiner (para. 7 of the application) should not be a concern in the Commission's decision. Nomenclatural stability is best served by retaining the name *N. stramineus* (Cope, 1865) and rejecting *N. ludibundus* (Girard, 1856).

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All this becomes unnecessary when the Code is followed. The only changes then would be Trie Ilia Hartmann. 1840 substituted by Truchulus Alten, 1812. and the familygroup name trichiinae Lozek, 1956 substituted by trochulinae Lindholm, 1927.

The question is, is all the trouble to conserve Trichia Hartmann. 1 840 justified? So far as I know the genus is not of any importance in medicine or applied science and is best known only to taxonomists and amateur malacologists. The fact that Trichia Hartmann was recognized the type of a family group as late as 1956 also does not speak for a great importance of the genus. Furthermore, there is no long-standing uniformity in the use of Trichia for the molluscs. The name Fruticicola Held, 1 837 was for a long time used for the type species of Trichia and I have always known the taxon as Fruticicola hispida (Linnaeus, 1758), a name used certainly beyond the middle of the 20th century (cf. para. 4 of the application). The name Trichia Hartmann has always been rather controversial because of the simultaneous use of Trichia De Haan, 1839 in Crustacea. Furthermore, Troclnilus is not an entirely unknown name and has been used during the 20th century. The family-group name based on it (trochulinae Lindholm, 1927) long before that based on Trichia Hartmann demonstrates this.

Concluding, I wish to remark that the discovery of Trichia Hoffman, 1790 as the oldest homonym, invalidating both Trichia De Haan, 1839 and Trichia Hartmann, 1840, is more or less a blessing, wiping away the controversy over priority between the crustacean and molluscan names. It means that there is no longer ambiguity over whether the crustacean or the molluscan name Trichia is meant, and no numerous and complicated manoeuvres by the Commission are needed to save the least deserving of the three names. In Crustacea the disappearance of the name Trichia has been accepted by all the workers that I contacted, and the replacement by Zaiasius Rathbun, 1 897 will not cause much confusion, especially when accepted immediately. I would expect that in MoUusca the disappearance of Trichia Hartmann will not do much harm, especially as the name of the genus has changed several times in its history, and a period of stability can be expected with the introduction of Troclnilus. The latter name has not been used for other genera and there is no question of switching it from one genus to another. The only argument for starting the complicated machinery of the Commission for saving Trichia Hartmann. 1840 is its frequent usage in the last ten years, but in Myxomycetes (or Mycetozoa) Trichia has clearly been used unambiguously for a much longer period of time. My plea is that in this case the Code should be strictly applied, this being the most simple and least time consuming procedure.

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In a recent paper in Ophelia (October 1999) we described a new spionid polychaete as Pohdora neocaeca. The new nominal species, a boring mudwomi, was based on material from Rhode Island and has its own holotype. description and type locality (see paras. 6 and 10 of the application; Williams & Radashevsky, 1999; and comments by Drs Geoffrey B. Read and Mary E. Petersen in BZN 57: 44 and 45, March 2000). We believe this to be the same taxon as P. caeca Webster, 1879. the name for which is a junior secondary homonym of P. coeca (Orsted, 1843), a tube-dwelling spionid.

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To avoid any ambiguity we should like to clarify the nomenclatural status of Pohdora neocaeca Williams & Radashevsky, 1999. The name was established as that of a new nominal species, and not as a replacement (nomen novum) for P. caeca Webster. We believe that P. neocaeca represents the same taxon as Webster described, but the synonymy is subjective and not objective.

Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific name of Hybognathus stramineus Cope, 1865 (currently Notropis stramineus; Osteichthyes, Cypriniformes) (Case 3131; see BZN 56: 240-246)

(I) David A. Etnier

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-1610. U.S.A.

I have read and am familiar with the application to conserve the specific name of Notropis stramineus (Cope, 1865) for the common North American minnow called the sand shiner.

Wayne Starnes and I (Etnier & Stames, 1993) were aware of Mayden & Gilbert's (1989) recognition of the obscure and unused Notropis ludibundus (Girard, 1856) as an earlier name for the sand shiner, and had learned by personal communication with Prof R.M. Bailey that applications were in preparation to conserve both Notropis topeka (C.H. Gilbert. 1884) (mentioned in para. 10 of the current application) and A^. stramineus. This information was made generally available to North American ichthyologists in the fifth edition of the checklist of Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada (Robins et al., 1991) (para. 5 of the application). In 1993 we followed Article 23b of the 1985 Code and retained the use of Notropis stramineus while the case was in prepartion, as did Jenkins & Bulkhead (1994) for the same reason.

In my view a very few uninformed or deliberate recent uses of Notropis ludibundus as the name for the sand shiner (para. 7 of the application) should not be a concern in the Commission's decision. Nomenclatural stability is best served by retaining the name N. stramineus (Cope, 1865) and rejecting A^. ludibundus (Girard, 1856).