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**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

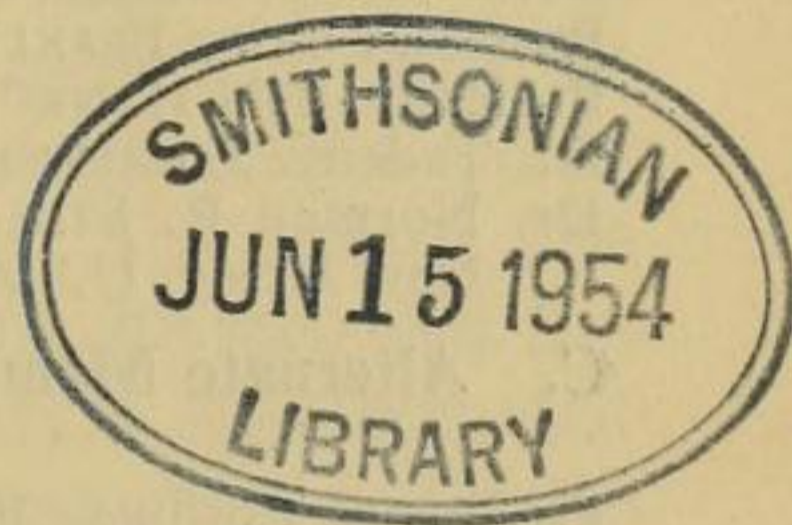
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 233

Suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the name
Octopodia Schneider, 1784 (Class Cephalopoda), and of
certain reputed names published by the same author in
1784



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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OPINION 233

SUPPRESSION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE NAME "OCTOPODIA" SCHNEIDER, 1784 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA), AND OF CERTAIN REPUTED NAMES PUBLISHED BY THE SAME AUTHOR IN 1784

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers the following names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—(a) the generic name *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784 (Class Cephalopoda); (b) the undermentioned specific names, all published in combination with the generic name *Octopodia*: (i) *moschites* Schneider, 1784; (ii) *nautilus* Schneider, 1784; (iii) *polypus* Schneider, 1784; (iv) *sepia* Schneider, 1784; (v) *teuthis* Schneider, 1784.

(2) The undermentioned reputed generic names were never published by Schneider, the names so attributed to that author being cheironyms, owing their alleged existence to a misreading by later authors of the relevant passages of Schneider's work *Sammlung vermischter Abhandlungen zur Aufklärung der Zoologie und der Handlungsgeschichte* of 1784, where Schneider used, as specific names of species referred by him to his own genus *Octopodia*, the words later wrongly thought to have been published by him as generic names, the error arising, presumably, from the fact that, following the practice of many XVIIIth century authors, he printed the words in question with capital initial letters and did not actually combine the specific names in question with the name of the genus (*Octopodia*) to which he referred those species, that generic name being cited only at the head of the account given for the genus :—(a) *Loligo* Schneider, 1784; (b) *Moschites* Schneider, 1784; (c) *Nautilus* Schneider, 1784; (d) *Polypus* Schneider, 1784; (e) *Pompilus* Schneider, 1784 (as already recorded in *Opinion* 166); (f) *Sepia* Schneider, 1784; (g) *Sepiola* Schneider, 1784; (h) *Teuthis* Schneider, 1784.

(3) The undermentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*

as Names Nos. 664 and 665 :—(a) *Eledone* Leach, 1817 (gender of name : feminine) (type species, by monotypy : *Octopus moschatus* Lamarck, 1798) (Class Cephalopoda) ; (b) *Octopus* Cuvier, [1797] (gender of name : masculine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy (*Opinion* 16) : *Octopus vulgare* Cuvier, [1797]) (Class Cephalopoda).

(4) The undermentioned generic and alleged generic names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 50 to 60 :—(a) *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, as suppressed under (1)(a) above ; (b) the eight reputed but non-existent names enumerated in (2) above ; (c) *Ozoena* Rafinesque, 1814 ; (d) *Polypus* Leach, 1817.

(5) The undermentioned names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 52 and 53 :—(a) *moschatus* Lamarck, 1798, as published in the combination *Octopus moschatus* ; (b) *vulgare* Cuvier, [1797], as published in the combination *Octopus vulgare*.

(6) The five specific names, suppressed under (1)(b) above, are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 12 to 16.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The preparation in the early part of 1943 of the *Opinion* (*Opinion* 166) (1945, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 375—398) required to give effect to the decision taken by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature under its Plenary Powers at Lisbon in 1935 in regard to the status of the name *Pompilus* Fabricius, 1798 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) involved consideration of the alleged generic name *Pompilus* Schneider, 1784, to which reference had been made in the application on which the foregoing *Opinion* was based. The investigation so undertaken by Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, in conjunction with Dr. Karl Jordan, then President of the Commission, disclosed the existence of a complex of mis-

understandings regarding the names published by Schneider in 1784. This subject was dealt with in the following special Report prepared by Mr. Hemming, which was annexed to *Opinion* 166 as an Appendix (Hemming, 1945, *ibid.* 2 : 388—394) :—

On the status of the name “Pompilus” and certain other names commonly alleged to have been published as generic names by Schneider (J. G.) in 1784, “Sammlung vermischter Abhandlungen zur Aufklärung der Zoologie und der Handlungsgeschichte”, and on matters incidental thereto

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.)

At their Session held at Lisbon in 1935 the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature agreed to use their Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the generic name *Pompilus* Fabricius, 1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 212 (type : *Pompilus pulcher* Fabricius, 1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 249) (Lisbon Session, 3rd Meeting, Conclusion 2(b)(18) and (c)(27), published in 1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 28, 29). The principal question involved in that case was the situation created by the existence of the older name *Psammochares* Latreille, 1796, for this genus. There was, however, a secondary problem arising from the alleged publication of the name *Pompilus* as a generic name by Schneider (J. G.) in 1784, *Sammlung vermischter Abhandlungen zur Aufklärung der Zoologie und der Handlungsgeschichte* : 128, since, if there had been such a generic name as *Pompilus* Schneider, 1784, the name *Pompilus* Fabricius, 1798, would have been invalid as a homonym, quite apart from the difficulties created by the existence of the name *Psammochares* Latreille, 1796. After careful consideration, the International Commission unanimously agreed to overcome these difficulties (i) by suppressing the name *Psammochares* Latreille, 1796, under their Plenary Powers and (ii) by suppressing under the same Powers the name *Pompilus* Schneider, 1784, “if intended as a generic name”.

2. It was not possible at Lisbon to consult a copy of Schneider's *Sammlung* and, in order to provide for this and certain similar cases, the International Commission at their meeting held at Lisbon on 18th September 1935 agreed “to authorise Commissioner Hemming to examine the report after the close of the Congress when works of reference were available to him, for the purpose of checking the accuracy of the bibliographical and other references cited therein, and to correct any errors which might be found before the text of the report was officially printed” (Lisbon Session, 5th Meeting, Conclusion (1c), published in 1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 44). Accordingly, the problem created by the alleged existence of the generic name *Pompilus* Schneider, 1784, was examined by Commissioner Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, jointly with Commissioner

Karl Jordan, President of the Commission, in the early part of 1943, when the text of *Opinion* 166, containing the Commission's decision in regard to *Pompilus* Fabricius, 1798, was in course of preparation.

3. The results of the examination of Schneider's *Sammlung* of 1784 may be summarised as follows :—

(a) The title of the article in Schneider's *Sammlung* in which the name "*Pompilus*" appears is : "Charakteristik des ganzen Geschlechts und der einzelnen Arten von Blakfischen", the article in question extending from page 103 to page 134.

(b) In the above article, Schneider :—

- (i) referred (: 105) to the 10th edition of the *Systema Naturae* of Linnaeus and quoted the diagnosis there given by Linnaeus for the genus *Sepia* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 658 (though he did not cite the date of the 10th edition or give the page reference) ;
- (ii) referred to the above diagnosis by the expression "Geschlechtskarakter" ;
- (iii) said that he could not retain in its entirety and without alteration the "Geschlechtskarakter" (diagnosis) given by Linnaeus for the genus *Sepia* Linnaeus ;
- (iv) gave a new "Geschlechtskarakter" for this genus covering all the species ("Arten") which he regarded as referable thereto ;
- (v) set out (: 108) the revised "Geschlechtskarakter" in Latin accompanied with a version in German, thus :—
 Octopodia. Caput cum oculis inter pedes et ventrem . . . (and so on)
 Blakfisch. Kopf und Augen zwischen Leib und Füßen . . . (and so on)
- (vi) stated that he had selected as the name of the "Geschlecht" the word "*Octopodia*" employed in late Greek, in place of the ancient name *Polypus* ("Ich habe zum allgemeinen Geschlechtsnamen ein Wort gewählt, welches die neuern Griechen statt des alten *Polypus* brauchten"), and accordingly placed the name *Octopodia* at the head of the Latin text of the "Geschlechtskarakter" (quoted in (v) above) of this genus, the counterpart in the German version being "Blakfisch" (that name being derived from the German word "blaken", used to denote the "smoking" of a candle or lamp) ;
- (vii) divided the "Geschlecht" *Octopodia* Schneider into two groups ("Classen"), to which, however, he applied no names ;

(viii) stated that he gave to each species its old Greek or Latin name (“ damit ich hernach einer jeden Art ihren alten griechischen oder lateinischen Namen wieder geben möchte ”).

(ix) enumerated under the names shown in (c) below the eight species which he referred to the genus *Octopodia* Schneider.

(c) The following are the species referred by Schneider to the genus *Octopodia* Schneider :—

NOTE :—The following points should be noted : (a) Schneider cited the generic name *Octopodia* Schneider only on page 108 and did not repeat it in combination with the specific trivial names of the eight species referred by him to that genus, each of those species being cited by him only by its specific trivial name, that name being printed with a capital initial letter (as “ *Sepia* ”, “ *Loligo* ”, etc). ; (b) As explained in (b) (viii) above, Schneider did not regard as new names the specific trivial names which he employed, but looked on them as old names revived, though in fact five of them are new names nomenclatorially, since Schneider was the first author to publish them after 1757 as the specific trivial components of binominal names formed in accordance with the system instituted by Linnaeus in 1758.

ERSTE CLASSE (: 109)

(i) *Octopodia sepia* Schneider, 1784

Schneider showed that his “ *Sepia* ” was the same species as *Sepia officinalis* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 658, no. 2. (“ Diese Art hält sich in Meer näher am Strande auf ”.)

(ii) *Octopodia loligo* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This species is *Sepia loligo* Linnaeus 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 659, no. 4. (“ Dies soll nach Linnee [sic] die grosse Art des Rondelet und Needham sein ”.)

(iii) *Octopodia teuthis* Schneider, 1784

This species is the same as *Sepia media* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 659, no. 3. (“ Dies ist die Art, welche Linnee [sic] *Media* nennt ”.)

(iv) *Octopodia sepiola* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This species is *Sepia sepiola* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 659, no. 5. (Schneider says of this species : “ Diese Art ist bunt ”.)

ZWEYTE [sic] CLASSE (: 116)

(v) *Octopodia polypus* Schneider, 1784

This species is the same as *Sepia octopodia* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 658, no. 1. Schneider

used the specific trivial name *polypus* because it was the old Greek name for this and, therefore, preferable, in his opinion, to the name *octopodia* used by Linnaeus in 1758. (Schneider says of this species: "Die Hauptschriftsteller von dieser Art, welche in dem angeführten Kennzeichen mit einander übereinstimmen, sind Herr Hasselquist und Koelreuter".)

(vi) *Octopodia moschites* Schneider, 1784

The name *moschites* does not appear in the 10th edition of Linnaeus. The description given by Schneider was based on classical and later accounts. The name *moschites* is derived from modern Greek: "Die neuern Griechen sollen ihn *μοσχίτης* nennen".

(vii) *Octopodia nautilus* Schneider, 1784

Schneider made it clear that this species is the same as *Argonauta argo* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 708, no. 231. Schneider added: "Diese Art hat Aristoteles mit Recht zu dem Geschlechte der Meerpolypen gezählt".

(viii) *Octopodia pompilus* [[recte] *pompilius*] (Linnaeus, 1758)

This is the species named *Nautilus pompilius* by Linnaeus in 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 709, no. 233. The spelling of the specific trivial name as "*pompilus*" instead of "*pompilius*" was due either to an error of transcription on the part of Schneider or to a deliberate return to classical spelling. Schneider said of this species: "Ich gebe dieser Art den Namen, welchen Linnee [sic] aus dem Plinius beigelegt hat, ob er ihr gleich nicht zukommt".

- (d) In view of the fact that Linnaeus erroneously placed the genera *Argonauta* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Nautilus* Linnaeus, 1758, among the univalve mollusca, Schneider, when uniting these genera with *Sepia* Linnaeus, 1758, to form the genus *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, was quite justified in using the expression "des ganzen Geschlechts" in the title of his article and in saying, as regards his own diagnosis ("Geschlechtskarakter") of the genus *Octopodia* Schneider, that it covered all the species referred by him to that genus.

4. It will be seen from the foregoing analysis of Schneider's *Sammlung* of 1784, that there is no such generic name as *Pompilus* Schneider, 1784,

and in consequence that the name *Pompilus* Fabricius, 1798, has at no time been a homonym. Accordingly, no difficulty arises under this head in connection with *Opinion* 166.

5. Certain nomenclatorial issues, unconnected with *Opinion* 166, are, however, disclosed by the examination of Schneider's *Sammlung*. As it is clearly most desirable that, where it is necessary in a given *Opinion* (as in *Opinion* 166) to examine the status of a particular name (as *Octopodia pompilus* Schneider, 1784), account should be taken of the effects of the conclusions reached not only as regards the particular name in question but also as regards any other name or names, the status of which is identical with that of the name examined. In the present case it is desirable, therefore, to examine the status of the other names used by Schneider in the article in which he described the species *Octopodia pompilus* [sic] (Linnaeus, 1758). The following notes are accordingly added, in order to show how the conclusions reached in regard to the specific trivial name "*pompilus*" used by Schneider for species no. 8 in his genus *Octopodia* affect the other names used by him in the same article. Finally a note is added in regard to the position of the generic name *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784.

6. The position as regards the specific trivial names used by Schneider in 1784 for species placed by him in the genus *Octopodia* Schneider may be summarised as follows :—

- (1) There is no force in either of the two arguments which at different times have been advanced against accepting as available under the *Règles Internationales* the names first published by Schneider in his *Sammlung* in 1784, namely :—
 - (a) that it is not clear that he used the expression "Geschlecht" as the equivalent of the expression "genus" of Linnaeus ; and
 - (b) that he divided the "Geschlecht" *Octopodia* into "Classen", thereby departing from the binary system of nomenclature.
- (2) As regards objection 1(a) above, it has already been shown conclusively in Section (b) of paragraph 3 of the present paper that Schneider's expression "Geschlecht" is identical with the expression "genus" as used by Linnaeus. Further, it should be noted that in various forms the expression "Geschlecht" has often been used by other authors as the equivalent of the expression "genus" and, therefore, that Schneider's use of this expression in this sense, though now not usual, is far from being unique. For example, towards the end of the XVIIIth century and at the beginning of the XIXth century, the word "Geschlecht" was in quite

common use as the designation for the systematic category next above the category of "species" and as the equivalent, therefore, of the expressions "genus" (Latin), "genre" (French), "Gattung" (German), "geslacht" (Dutch), and "slägt" (Swedish). Moreover, these words are all still in use to the present day in works on systematic zoology. The following are examples of such usage at various dates :—

- (a) Fuessli, 1778, *Mag. Ent.* 1 : 2 & ff. (Review of Voet's *Catalogus systematicus Coleopterorum*) : "Genus primum : *Scarabaeus*. Von diesem Geschlechte sind bis S. 34 überhaupt 153 Arten beschrieben und abgebildet. S. 35 folgt : *Genus secundum, Copris*, Von diesem Geschlechte sind erst 10 Arten beschrieben . . ." (and so on).
- (b) Helmuth, 1808, *Naturgeschichte* 5. "Das Geschlecht der Kolbenkäfer, *Scarabaeus*" (: 24) ; "Das Geschlecht der Bockkäfer, *Cerambyx*" (: 41) ; "Das Geschlecht der Wasserkäfer. *Dytiscus*" (: 48) . . . (and so on).
- (c) A. van Bemmelen, in Herklots, 1858, *Bouwstoffen voor eene Fauna van Nederland* 2 : 140. "Ons land is rijk an soorten van het geslacht *Cyprinus* ; de best bekende zijn : " (Here follows a list of 6 species : *Cyprinus rutilus*, *Cyprinus brama*, etc.).
- (d) Reuter, 1880, in *Ent. Tidskr.* 1 : 117. "Slägtöfversigt" (i.e. "survey (or key) of genera").

(3) Objection (1)(b) above rests on the argument that Schneider was not an author who applied the principles of binary nomenclature and, therefore, that names published by him do not satisfy the requirements of proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles Internationales*. The only evidence brought forward in support of this contention is that Schneider divided the "Geschlecht" *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, into two groups (which he called "Classen"), intermediate in rank between genus and species. This objection is ill-founded, (a) because Schneider did not give names to his "Classen" and (b) because even if he had given names to his "Classen", such action would still not have constituted a departure from the principles of binary nomenclature. Quite apart from the fact that the *Règles Internationales* recognise (Articles 6—10) the subgenus as a category intermediate between the genus and the species, it should be noted that many strictly binominal authors from the time of Linnaeus onwards have established groups within a genus identical with the "Classen" established by Schneider and that many of these authors have given Latin names (in the nominative plural) to the groups so established. See, for example, the six named groups established by Linnaeus within the genus *Gryllus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10)

1 : 425—433 (Class Insecta, Order Orthoptera). In actual fact, as will be seen from paragraph 3(c) of the present paper, Schneider in his *Sammlung* of 1784 employed a strictly binominal system of nomenclature. Since a binominal system of nomenclature is *ex hypothesi* a binary system of nomenclature, it is not necessary here to consider whether Schneider used a system of nomenclature, which, though not binominal, was nevertheless a binary system in the sense in which that expression is interpreted in *Opinion* 20. This is fortunate, since the validity of the interpretation of the expression "binary nomenclature" as given in that *Opinion* is at present *sub judice* (see 1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 45, 55).

(4) In view of (2) and (3) above, no grounds exist on which either the generic or the specific trivial names first published by Schneider in his *Sammlung* of 1784 can be rejected as not satisfying the requirements of the *Règles Internationales*. All such names possess, therefore, rights under the Law of Priority as from 1784.

(5) The only new generic name published by Schneider in the article under discussion was *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784 (see paragraph 7 below). All the other generic names alleged to have been published by Schneider in that article are cheironyms (being based upon a misreading of the trivial names used by Schneider for species of the genus *Octopodia* Schneider) and should therefore, be deleted from all zoological *Nomenclators*. The cheironyms in question are :—

Loligo Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Anhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 110

Moschites Schneider, 1784, *ibid.* : 118

Polypus Schneider, 1784, *ibid.* : 116

Pompilus Schneider, 1784, *ibid.* : 128

Sepiola Schneider, 1784, *ibid.* : 116

Teuthis Schneider, 1784, *ibid.* : 113

(6) In consequence of the elimination of the first five of the above cheironyms, the following names are no longer invalid by reason of being homonyms :—

Loligo Lamarck, 1798, *Bull. Sci. Soc. philomat.*, Paris 17 : 130

Moschites Hoyle, 1901, *Mem. Proc. Manchester lit. phil. Soc.* 45 (No. 9) : 1

Polypus Leach, 1817, *Zool. Miscell.* 3 : 139

Pompilus Fabricius, 1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 212

Sepiola Leach, 1817, *Zool. Miscell.* 3 : 140

(7) the elimination of the cheironym *Teuthis* Schneider, 1784 (and of the cheironyms *Nautilus* Schneider, 1784, and *Sepia* Schneider, 1784, if either of these names have been cited in

scientific publications) can have no effect upon the nomenclature of the groups concerned, since, even if such generic names had been published by Schneider in 1784, they would have been invalid as homonyms under Article 34 of the *Règles Internationales*, in view of the existence of the prior names *Teuthis* Linnaeus, 1766, *Nautilus* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Sepia* Linnaeus, 1758.

7. The position as regards the generic name *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, may be summarised as follows :—

(1) the generic name *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 108, is a nomenclatorially available name, since :—

(a) it was published with a definition (see paragraph 3(b)(v) above), thereby satisfying the requirements of proviso (a) to Article 25 of the *Règles Internationales* ; and

(b) was published by an author who applied a strictly binominal system of nomenclature, and, therefore, *ex hypothesi* a binary system of nomenclature (see paragraphs 3(c) and 6(3) above), thereby satisfying the requirements of proviso (b) to Article 25.

(2) In view of (1) above, all uses of the word *Octopodia* as a new generic name by later authors are invalid since the generic name *Octopodia* as used by such authors is a homonym of *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784. Accordingly, the names *Octopodia* Gray, 1847, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 15 (178) : 205, and *Octopodia* Grimpe, 1925, *Wiss. Meeresuntersuch., Abh. Helgoland* 16 (3) : 13, are invalid under Article 34 of the *Règles Internationales*.

(3) At the time when the generic name *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, was published, *Octopodia polypus* Schneider, 1784 (one of the included species) already possessed a name (*Sepia octopodia* Linnaeus, 1758), of which the specific trivial component consisted of the same word (*octopodia*) as that selected by Schneider as the name for his new genus (*Octopodia*).

(4) In view of (3) above and of the fact that Schneider did not designate a type for the genus *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, the type of that genus is *Octopodia polypus* Schneider, 1784, by absolute tautonymy under Rule (d) in Article 30 of the *Règles Internationales*.

8. Now that it is seen that *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, is an available generic name and that *Octopodia polypus* Schneider, 1784 (= *Sepia*

octopodia Linnaeus, 1758) is the type of this genus, it will be necessary to consider the position of the name *Octopus* Cuvier, [1797], *Tabl. elem.* : 380 (= *Octopus* Lamarck, 1798, *Bull. Soc. Sci. philomat.*, Paris 17 : 130), since clearly greater confusion than uniformity would result from the substitution of the name *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, for the name *Octopus* Cuvier, [1797]. Specialists interested in this question are accordingly invited to communicate with the International Commission.

FRANCIS HEMMING.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

Secretariat of the Commission,
at the British Museum (Natural History),
Cromwell Road, LONDON, S.W.7.

25th July 1943.

2. In carrying out the survey dealt with in the foregoing Report, Mr. Hemming was greatly assisted by Mr. R. Winckworth (*London*) and later it was agreed by the President that it would be convenient for the International Commission if, in addition to Mr. Hemming's Report, it had before it definite proposals for putting an end to the existing confusion regarding the names published by Schneider in 1784. Accordingly, in response to an invitation by Mr. Hemming, Mr. Winckworth prepared an application for the suppression of the names in question by the International Commission under its Plenary Powers. The application so prepared was submitted by Mr. Winckworth on 16th April 1945, when it was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 187, the earlier stages of the present case having been dealt with on the File Z.N.(S.) 3, the file relating to *Opinion* 166. Mr. Winckworth's application was as follows :—

The names " Octopus " and " Eledone "

By R. WINCKWORTH

Application is here made for the suppression of all names in Schneider, 1784, and for *Octopus* and *Eledone* to be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names*.

In the paper by Schneider, 1784, on the whole group and the several kinds of inkfish, the original words for group (*Geschlecht*) and kind (*Art*) should be regarded as equivalent to genus and species. They have

however, been interpreted by some as meaning division and genus, e.g. by Herrmannsen, 1847, *Indicis Generum Malac.* 2 : 35 and by Hoyle, 1901, *Mem. Proc. Manchester Lit. Phil. Soc.* 44, no. 9, who introduced *Polypus* Schneider, 1784, as a generic name to replace *Octopus* Lamarck, 1798, with most unfortunate results.*

A strict application of priority would now require *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, to replace *Octopus*. A similar confusion of usage would no doubt arise with the further confusion between the generic name *Octopodia* and the ordinal name Octopoda. The name *Octopus* is in general zoological usage and its use is not confined to specialists in mollusca ; apart from the use of *Polypus* by a few specialists for about twenty years, *Octopus* has been consistently used for well over a century. I should also deplore the substitution of the almost unknown names of Schneider for well-established trivial names. I therefore ask that all names in Schneider, 1784, be suppressed and that *Octopus* Cuvier, 1797, and *Eledone* Leach, 1817, be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names* with types *Octopus vulgaris* Cuvier, 1797, and *Eledone moschata* (Lamarck) 1798.

Octopus is first used generically by Cuvier, an vi (27 December 1797), *Tableau Élémentaire* : 380 with two species of which the first " Le poulpe commun. (*Octopus vulgare*) *Sepia octopus* L. [i.e. Gmelin]" is by tautonymy the type. In the same year, an vi (1798) Lamarck, *Bull. Sci. Soc. philom.* 2 : 130 also proposed *Octopus* with first species *O. vulgaris*. Although Cuvier only gives two characters to distinguish *O. vulgaris* (which he writes in error *O. vulgare*) there is no doubt as to the species intended, since he says it is the common octopus of our seas and there is a figure on plate 9 ; he also mentions its large size. *Polypus* Leach, 1817, *Zool. Misc.* 3 : 139 is an exact synonym of *Octopus*. Some authors have called this species *Sepia octopodia* (L.), but *Sepia octopodia* Lin., 1758, must be considered indeterminate ; it is not clear either from the references or other evidence whether it is an *Octopus* or an *Eledone* ; while *Sepia octopus* Gmelin, 1791, repeats the Linnean aggregate with yet other references, so that it includes species of *Octopus*, *Eledone* and *Bathypolypus*.

Eledone Leach, 1817, *Zool. Misc.* 3 : 138 is monotypical with the sole species *Eledone moschata*=*Octopus moschatus* Lamarck, 1798. There is a rather close earlier generic name, *Eledona* Latreille, 1796, *Précis Car. Ins.* : 19 (coleoptera). There is also an earlier name for *Eledone*, namely *Ozoena* Rafinesque, 1814, *Précis Somiol.* : 29, where

* A rough count based on the *Zoological Record* for the period 1901—1920 gives an equal number of papers in which *Octopus* is used and in which *Polypus* is used, twenty-four new species being described under *Polypus*. Grimpe, 1920, *Zool. Anz.* 51 : 205 protested against the use of *Polypus* ; and in the period 1921—1930 forty-eight papers use *Octopus* and only nine *Polypus*, and the latter name is now obsolete.

it occurs twice, in the sentence “*l’Octopus moschatus* de Lamarck est mon *Ozoena moschata*” and in a list of *nomina nuda* “Mes autres nouvelles espèces . . . *Ozoena aldrovandi*”. It may be noted that Aldrovandus spells the word *Ozaena* and that there is an earlier *Ozaena* Olivier, 1812, which in any case invalidates¹ Rafinesque’s name under Article 34. In 1901 Hoyle introduced *Moschites* Schneider, 1784, as a generic name to replace *Eledone*, on the false assumption that Schneider had proposed it generically. The only other name to discuss is *Hoylea* Rochebrune, 1885, substituted for *Hallia* Rochebrune, 1884, preoccupied ; this is based on a specimen named *Hallia sepiodea*, which may be an abnormal *Octopus* but is probably an abnormal *Eledone cirrhosa* (Lamarck). Well over ninety per cent.* of the literature on this genus refers to it under the name *Eledone*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. *Issue of Public Notices* : On 14th September 1947 a notice of the possible use, by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objection to the action proposed.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

4. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours.

* A rough count gave 130 works using *Eledone*, 13 using *Moschites*. For a further discussion on the name *Eledone* see Robson, 1932, *Monograph Cephalopoda Brit. Mus.* : 256.

¹ Under the revision of Article 34 carried through by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the area within which any two generic names are to be treated as homonyms of one another was greatly restricted, a difference in spelling of one letter becoming sufficient to prevent a condition of homonymy from arising. Accordingly, while Mr. Winckworth’s statement that the foregoing names were homonyms of one another was correct under the *Règles*, as interpreted by Opinion 147, at the time when he wrote the above note, it is no longer so. The change made in Article 34 by the Copenhagen Congress was however accompanied by a saving clause in favour of cases already settled by the Commission on the basis of the earlier text of Article 34 (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 78).

The following is an extract from the Official Record of the proceedings of the International Commission setting out the decision reached by it in regard to this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 56) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 3 : 586—590) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers to suppress :—

(a) the generic name *Octopodia* Schneider, 1784 (Class Cephalopoda) ;

(b) the undermentioned specific trivial names :—

moschites Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia moschites*)

nautilus Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia nautilus*)

polypus Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia polypus*)

sepia Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia sepia*)

teuthis Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia teuthis*) ;

(2) to declare that the undermentioned reputed generic names were never published by Schneider, the names so attributed to that author being cheironyms, owing their alleged existence to a misreading by later authors of the relevant passage in Schneider's *Sammlung vermischter Abhandlungen zur Aufklärung der Zoologie und der Handlungsgeschichte* where he used as trivial names of species of his own genus *Octopodia* the words later wrongly thought to have been published by him as generic names, the error arising (it must be supposed) from the fact that, following the practice of many 18th century authors, he printed the words in question with capital initial letters and did not actually combine the trivial names in question with the name of the genus (*Octopodia*) to which he referred those species, that

generic name being cited only at the head of the account given for the genus :—

Loligo Schneider, 1784

Moschites Schneider, 1784

Nautilus Schneider, 1784

Polypus Schneider, 1784

Pompilus Schneider, 1784 (as already recorded in *Opinion* 166)

Sepia Schneider, 1784

Sepiola Schneider, 1784

Teuthis Schneider, 1784 ;

(3) to place the undermentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Eledone Leach, 1817 (type species, by monotypy : *Octopus moschatus* Lamarck, 1798) (Class Cephalopoda, Order Decapoda)

Octopus Cuvier [1797] (type species, by absolute tautonymy under the principle laid down in *Opinion* 16 : *Octopus vulgaris* (correction of *vulgare*) Cuvier [1797]) (Class Cephalopoda, Order Decapoda) ;

(4) to place the undermentioned generic names and alleged generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Loligo Schneider, 1784 (a cheironym possessing no status under the *Règles*)

Moschites Schneider, 1784 (a cheironym possessing no status under the *Règles*)

Nautilus Schneider, 1784 (a cheironym possessing no status under the *Règles*)

Octopodia Schneider, 1784 (suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) (a) above)

Ozoena Rafinesque, 1814 (invalid, because a junior homonym of *Ozaena* Olivier, 1812)²

Polypus Leach, 1817 (invalid, because an objective synonym of *Octopus* Cuvier [1797])

Polypus Schneider, 1784 (a cheironym possessing no status under the *Règles*)

² See footnote 1.

Pompilus Schneider, 1784 (a cheironym possessing no status under the *Règles*)

Sepia Schneider, 1784 (a cheironym possessing no status under the *Règles*)

Sepiola Schneider, 1784 (a cheironym possessing no status under the *Règles*)

Teuthis Schneider, 1784 (a cheironym possessing no status under the *Règles*) ;

(5) to place the undermentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—

moschatus Lamarck, 1798 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopus moschatus*)

vulgaris Cuvier [1797] (as published in the binominal combination *Octopus vulgaris*) ;

(6) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the undermentioned trivial names suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) (b) above :—

moschites Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia moschites*)

nautilus Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia nautilus*)

polypus Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia polypus*)

sepia Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia sepia*)

teuthis Schneider, 1784 (as published in the binominal combination *Octopodia teuthis*) ;

(7) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (6) above.

5. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

Eledone Leach, 1817, *Zool. Misc.* 3 : 138

Loligo Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* ;

- moschatus*, *Octopus*, Lamarck, 1798, *Bull. Sci. Soc. phlomat.*, Paris **17** : 130
- Moschites* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 118
- moschites*, *Octopodia*, Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 118
- Nautilus* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 120
- nautilus*, *Octopodia*, Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 120
- Octopodia* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 108
- Octopus* Cuvier, [1797], *Tabl. элем. Hist. nat. Anim.* : 380
- Ozoena* Rafinesque, 1814, *Précis Découv. Trav. somiolog.* : 29
- Polypus* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 116
- Polypus* Leach, 1817, *Zool. Misc.* **3** : 139
- polypus*, *Octopodia*, Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 116
- Pompilus* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 128
- Sepia* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 109
- sepia*, *Octopodia*, Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 109
- Sepiola* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 116
- Teuthis* Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 113
- teuthis*, *Octopodia*, Schneider, 1784, *Samml. verm. Abhandl. Aufklär. Zool.* : 113
- vulgare*, *Octopus*, Cuvier, [1797], *Tabl. элем. Hist. nat. Anim.* : 380

6. The genders of the generic names *Eledone* Leach, 1817, and *Octopus* Cuvier, [1797], referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 4 above, are feminine and masculine respectively.

7. The decision in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **5** : 120).

8. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

9. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

10. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression “trivial name” and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word “trivial” appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression “specific name” was substituted for the expression “trivial name” and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.*: 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

11. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the undersigned Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

12. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Thirty-Three* (233) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Eighth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature.*

FRANCIS HEMMING