Case 2874

Chtenopteryx Appellöf, 1890 (Mollusca, Cephalopoda): proposed confirmation as the correct original spelling

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to confirm as correct the original spelling of the name *Chtenopteryx* Appellöf, 1890 for a genus of comb-fin squids. The unjustified emendation to *Ctenopteryx* was made in 1900, and this spelling has been universally used until very recently although with citation of Appellöf as author. However, it is a junior homonym of the coleopteran subgeneric name *Ctenopteryx* Flach, 1889. The most appropriate course of action is to confirm Appellöf's original spelling and to adopt the corrected spelling CHTENOPTERYGIDAE Grimpe, 1922 for the derived family-group name.

- 1. Appellöf (1890, p. 3) established the generic name *Chtenopteryx* for a single new species of squid, *Chtenopteryx fimbriatus* [recte: *fimbriata*] (p. 4, figs. 1–6), from Messina (Mediterranean). In a footnote he gave the derivation of the generic name from the Greek words for 'comb' and 'wing'.
- 2. The name Chtenopteryx in its original spelling was used in the following decade only by Joubin (1894, p. 64) in describing a new species Chtenopteryx cyprinoides and referring to Appellöf's species Chtenopteryx fimbriatus. In a paper published on 15 February 1900, Joubin (pp. 9, 10, 13, 47, 49, 121, 129, pl. 14 and its caption) used the spelling Ctenopteryx, attributing it to Appellöf. He (p. 47) used this incorrect spelling in quoting from his own 1894 work and (p. 129) in quoting the title of Appellöf's original paper; he did not mention Appellöf's original spelling Chtenopteryx. Pfeffer (28 December 1900, p. 171) decided that Appellöf's name Chtenopteryx was a spelling mistake and made the unjustified emendation to Ctenopteryx. He wrote (p. 172): 'Appellöf schreibt 'Chth[sic]enopteryx'; dies ist jedoch lediglich ein Schreibfehler; es muss heissen 'Ctenopteryx' wegen der Kamm-artigen Ausbildung der Querbrücken auf den Flossen'. It is known that Joubin was in correspondence with Pfeffer and it is likely that he learned of Pfeffer's views on the spelling of the generic name prior to Pfeffer's publication. The Greek prefix for 'comb', although beginning with the letter chi, is almost always transliterated as cteno-.
- 3. Grimpe (1922, p. 45) established the subfamily name CTENOPTERYGINAE, with Ctenopteryx Appellöf as type genus; this taxon has been used at family rank as CTENOPTERYGIDAE (e.g. Roper, Young & Voss, 1969, p. 8).
- 4. Until very recently all 20th century authors have used the spelling *Ctenopteryx*, invariably citing Appellöf as the author; a representative list of 50 references between 1900 and 1992 is held by the Commission Secretariat. Sabelli, Giannuzzi-Savelli &

Bedulli (1990, p. 106) revived the original spelling *Chtenopteryx*, with Appellöf as author, within the family CHTENOPTERYGIDAE Grimpe (spelling corrected under Article 35d of the Code), and with *Chtenopteryx fimbriatus* Appellöf, 1890 (a junior subjective synonym of *Sepioteuthis sicula* Verany, 1851, p. 75) as type species. Guerra (1992, p. 315) pointed out the homonymy between *Ctenopteryx* Pfeffer, 1900 and *Ctenopteryx* Flach, 1889 (see para. 5 below) and the consequential need to use Appellöf's original spelling *Chtenopteryx*. Our application to the Commission was in the final stages of preparation when Guerra's 1992 work was published.

- 5. Prior to Appellöf's 1890 proposal of the name *Chtenopteryx*, Flach (1889, p. 517) had established the name *Ctenopteryx* as a subgenus of the coleopteran genus *Trichopteryx* Kirby, 1826. *Ctenopteryx* Flach is therefore a senior homonym of *Ctenopteryx* as used by Joubin and Pfeffer in 1900.
- 6. Under Article 33b(i) Joubin's use of the spelling *Ctenopteryx* was not an emendation since the original spelling *Chtenopteryx* was not given; it is, therefore, merely an incorrect subsequent spelling. Pfeffer's (1900) change of Appellöf's name to *Ctenopteryx* was deliberate and is, therefore, available as an unjustified emendation (Article 33b(ii)). We consider, nevertheless, that it would be confusing to attribute the cephalopod genus to Pfeffer (or to Joubin), quite apart from its junior homonymy with Flach's (1889) coleopteran name.
- 7. The name Ctenopteryx Flach is widely used in coleopteran literature, sometimes as a subgenus of Acrotrichis (e.g. Johnson, 1985, pp. 224–227) and sometimes as a genus (e.g. Biström & Silfverberg, 1979, p. 13). In view of this it would be inappropriate to ask the Commission to suppress the coleopteran name Ctenopteryx in order to conserve that spelling of the cephalopod name despite its wide usage. We consider it desirable that the Commission should confirm the original spelling of the cephalopod name so that it can rapidly be reintroduced into usage.
- 8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:
 - (1) to confirm that the name Chtenopteryx Appellöf, 1890 is correctly so spelled;
 - (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name Chtenopteryx Appellöf, 1890 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation Chtenopteryx fimbriatus Appellöf, 1890 (a junior subjective synonym of Sepioteuthis sicula Verany, 1851);
 - (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name sicula Verany, 1851, as published in the binomen Sepioteuthis sicula (a senior subjective synonym of Chtenopteryx fimbriatus Appellöf, 1890, the type species of Chtenopteryx Appellöf, 1890);
 - (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name CHTENOPTERYGIDAE Grimpe, 1922 (type genus Chtenopteryx Appellöf, 1890), corrected name for a family-group name based upon an unjustified emendation of the name of the type genus);
 - (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the names:
 - (a) Ctenopteryx Joubin, 1900 (incorrect subsequent spelling of Chtenopteryx Appellöf, 1890);
 - (b) Ctenopteryx Pfeffer, 1900 (unjustified emendation of Chtenopteryx Appellöf, 1890 and junior homonym of Ctenopteryx Flach, 1889);

(6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name CTENOPTERYGIDAE Grimpe, 1922 (incorrect original spelling of CHTENOPTERYGIDAE Grimpe, 1922).

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