

Case 3392***Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Symphorobius elegans*) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*) (Insecta, Neuroptera): proposed conservation of the specific names**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.5 of the Code, is to conserve the specific names *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Symphorobius elegans*) (HEMEROBIIDAE) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*) (CHRYSOPIIDAE). Although *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 are primary homonyms, they were treated congenerically only for the seven-year period from 1844 to 1851, after which the junior name was removed from *Hemerobius*. The senior homonym is a European brown lacewing; the junior homonym is a Neotropical green lacewing. Both names are in current use. It is proposed that *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 be conserved by ruling that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; CHRYSOPIIDAE; HEMEROBIIDAE; *Vieira elegans*; *Symphorobius elegans*; green lacewings; brown lacewings; Costa Rica; Suriname; Brazil; Europe.

1. Stephens (1836, p. 113) described *Hemerobius elegans*, a brown lacewing, from England, although the name had been used earlier in an unavailable context by Stephens (1829, p. 312). The species was transferred to *Symphorobius* Banks, 1904 by Banks (1905, p. 40), where it is placed today. It has also been treated briefly in the genera *Mucropalpus* Rambur, 1842 by Schoch (1885, p. 20) and *Eurobius* Krüger, 1922 by Krüger (1922, p. 171), neither placement of which gained wide acceptance. *Symphorobius elegans* is currently known from at least 29 countries across Europe (Aspöck et al., 2001, p. 149). The genus *Symphorobius* is currently classified as belonging to the subfamily SYMPHEROBIINAE (HEMEROBIIDAE) (Aspöck et al., 2001, pp. 145–147).

2. Guérin-Méneville (1844, p. 388) described *Hemerobius elegans*, a green lacewing, from Brazil ('Rio-Janeiro'). It was transferred to the genus *Chrysopa* Leach in Brewster, 1815 by Schneider (1851, p. 134), to *Nodita* Navás, 1916 by Navás (1928, p. 125), to *Berchmansus* Navás, 1913(b) by Banks (1944, p. 29, as '*Berkmansus*' (sic)), and subsequently to *Vieira* Navás, 1913(a) by Tauber (2007, p. 123). This is a rare species that is currently known from Costa Rica, Suriname and southeastern Brazil. The genus *Vieira*, with type species *Leucochrysa leschenaulti* Navás, 1911, was placed by Adams (1978, p. 211) in the tribe LEUCOCHRYSINI (CHRYSOPIIDAE,

CHRYSOPIINAE), but has recently been transferred to the tribe BELONOPTERYGINI (CHRYSOPIIDAE, CHRYSOPIINAE) by Tauber (2007, p. 123).

3. *Symphorobius elegans* (Stephens, 1836) is a well-established name for a common European brown lacewing. Aspöck et al. (1980, p. 228; 2001, p. 149) list more than 120 literature citations for this name, by more than 50 authors, during the period 1957 to 2001. *Vieira elegans* (Guérin-Ménéville, 1844) is a rare species with few citations in the literature. The following six post-1956 references have been identified that cite the species-group name *elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844 as a valid name (all combinations in *Berchmansus* except as noted): Penny, 1977, p. 15; Brooks & Barnard, 1990, p. 244; Penny, 2002, p. 190; Tauber et al., 2006, p. 221; Tauber, 2006; Tauber, 2007 (in *Vieira*).

4. Although *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844 are primary homonyms, they were congeneric in *Hemerobius* for only the short period from 1844 to 1851, when the latter species was removed to the genus *Chrysopa*. Because the two species are currently placed in different families, there seems little possibility that the two species will ever be treated in the future as congeneric. The junior homonym *Vieira elegans* (Guérin-Ménéville) has no available synonyms, and therefore cannot be replaced with a pre-existing name. Nomenclatural stability in this case would be best achieved by conserving both names in their present usages, rather than by requiring the proposal of a new replacement name for the junior homonym.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the name *elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*;
 - (b) *elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, with the endorsement that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, as ruled in (1).

Acknowledgements

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(For more complete bibliographical and dating information, and links to pdfs of some works, see the cited reference numbers for the *Bibliography of the Neuropterida* [BotN] at http://insects.tamu.edu/research/neuropterida/neur_bibliography/bibhome.html [Accessed in May, 2007]).

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).

OPINION 2220 (Case 3392)***Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Symphorobius elegans*) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*) (Insecta, Neuroptera): specific names conserved**

Abstract. The specific names *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Symphorobius elegans*), for a European brown lacewing (HEMEROBIIDAE) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*), for a Neotropical green lacewing (CHRYSOPIDAE) are hereby conserved by ruling that *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844 is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836. Both names are in current use but are placed in different families and unlikely to ever be treated as congeneric in the future.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; CHRYSOPIDAE; HEMEROBIIDAE; *Vieira elegans*; *Symphorobius elegans*; green lacewings; brown lacewings; Costa Rica; Suriname; Brazil; Europe.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the name *elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*;
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*;
 - (b) *elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, with the endorsement that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, as ruled in (1) above.

History of Case 3392

An application to conserve the specific names *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Symphorobius elegans*) (HEMEROBIIDAE) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Ménéville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*) (CHRYSOPIDAE) was received from J.D. Oswald (Texas A&M University, TX, U.S.A.) on 14 June 2006. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 64: 174–177. The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. One supportive comment was published in BZN 65: 49–50.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 June 2008 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 64: 175. At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2008 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 12: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Halliday, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Lim, Pape, Papp and Zhang.

Negative votes – 4: Grygier, Kottelat, Rosenberg and van Tol.

Fautin abstained.

No vote was received from Ng. Minelli, Patterson, Pyle and Štys were on leave of absence.

Voting AGAINST, Grygier commented that the junior name appears to hold no special importance. Also voting AGAINST, Kottelat said that he failed to see how the change of the name of a species said to be rare and cited six times in the last 50 years can threaten stability of nomenclature. Kullander, voting FOR, said that this was a relevant case for the Commission and that he particularly appreciates applications that do more than attempt to preserve favourite junior synonyms. Rosenberg, voting AGAINST, commented that *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 does not have enough usage to warrant conservation.

Original references

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

elegans, *Hemerobius*, Stephens, 1836, *Illustrations of British entomology; or, a synopsis of indigenous insects: containing their generic and specific distinctions; with an account of their metamorphoses, times of appearance, localities, food, economy . . . Mandibulata*, vol. 6, p. 113.

elegans, *Hemerobius*, Guérin-Méneville, 1844, *Iconographie du règne animal de G. Cuvier, ou représentation d'après nature de l'une des espèces les plus remarquables, et souvent non encore figurées, de chaque genre d'animaux. Insectes*, p. 388.