

Case 3769 – Proposed use of the plenary power to declare the pamphlet “*Procrustomachia*” as an unavailable work

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Abstract. The purpose of this application under Article 8.1.2, Article 8.1.3.1, Article 8.5.3 and Article 9.11 of the Amendment to the Code (ICZN, 2012) is to declare the pamphlet “*Procrustomachia*” 2016–2018 (Vols. 1–3) as an unavailable work from a nomenclatural viewpoint and all new scientific names and nomenclatural acts published in it so far to be unavailable because the number of original printed copies is not sufficient to make the works accessible to the scientific community according to Art. 8.1.3.1 (ICZN, 2012).

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Coleoptera; BUPRESTIDAE; pamphlet “*Procrustomachia*”; unavailable work.

1. During our updating of the “World Catalogue and Bibliography of the Jewel Beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestoidea)” by Bellamy (2008, 2009), we found descriptions of buprestid taxa that were published in the pamphlet “*Procrustomachia*”. This pamphlet, which is authored, edited, and produced solely by one individual, Roman B. Hołyński, does not satisfy the requirements for publication of scientific names in zoology. The names published in this way are unavailable according to the Code (ICZN, 1999, 2012), as explained in detail by Bílý & Volkovitsh (2017). The pamphlet “*Procrustomachia*”

was first issued in 2016, and one new genus, eight new subgenera, 17 new species and one new subspecies of BUPRESTIDAE (Coleoptera) have thus far been described in this pamphlet. The issues containing new names are presented in the form of electronically distributed PDF files published as the “Occasional Papers of the Uncensored Scientists Group”. Volume 1 (2016) consists of five issues, of which Nos. 1, 4 and 5 are devoted to taxonomy of BUPRESTIDAE (Hołyński, 2016a, 2016b, 2016c) and Nos. 2 and 3 to ornithological problems and do not contain any nomenclatural acts. Volume 2 (2017) consists of six issues, three of them dealing with BUPRESTIDAE (Nos. 3, 5, 6) (Hołyński, 2017a, 2017b, 2017c) and an editor’s note (No. X) (Hołyński, 2017d). Volume 3 (2018) consists so far of four issues, three of them dealing with BUPRESTIDAE (Nos. 1, 2, 4) (Hołyński, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c) and one (No. 3) with ornithological problems but containing no nomenclatural acts.

2. “*Procrustomachia*” is distributed almost exclusively via the Internet—i.e., via e-mail and the social network site ResearchGate. However, the pamphlet does not meet the conditions to qualify as an electronically-issued and distributed work to be accepted for nomenclatural purposes because the works issued within the pamphlet are not deposited in a recognized archive prior to electronic distribution and none of the newly proposed names within them have been found using the ZooBank search facility (last accessed on 15 June 2018). This means non-compliance of Article 8.5 of the Code (particularly Art. 8.5.3) of the Amendment regarding electronic publications (ICZN, 2012), hence “*Procrustomachia*” does not constitute an electronically published work according to Art. 9.11.

3. Given the non-compliance of the electronic version of issues of this journal to be considered a valid publication according to the Code, the articles issued within this pamphlet would only be considered as published works based on the printed copies. No information regarding where printed copies of “*Procrustomachia*” can be obtained is given in any of the published volumes (see Art. 8.1.2, ICZN, 2012); however, an editorial note in Volume 2 (No. X) (Hołyński, 2017d) references an “essay...downloadable from ResearchGate” in which it is stated that “printed copies...” (without specifying whether they are true print issues or printouts of PDF copies, see Bílý & Volkovitsh, 2017) “... have been deposited in some major libraries”. Only the Polish National Library is named, however, and our internet search (last on 20 June 2018) has revealed only two other libraries listing issues of “*Procrustomachia*” in their on-line catalogues: one is Library of Zoological Institute of PASC, which lists only Volume 1 (No. 1), and the other is Library of Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, which lists only Volume 2 (No. 3) and Volume 3 (No. 2). Only the Polish National Library lists a complete set of issues. This gives grounds to assume that the initial print run is too small to be accepted as a published work, in non-compliance of Amendment 8.1.3.1 (ICZN, 2012) which requires “numerous identical and durable copies” for works issued as physical (printed, Art. 8.4.1) copies.

4. The International Commission on the Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress for nomenclatural purposes the pamphlet “*Procrustomachia*” 2016–2018 (Vols. 1–3) by Roman B. Hołyński; and
- (2) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoological Nomenclature the pamphlet “*Procrustomachia*” 2016–2018 (Vols. 1–3) by Roman B. Hołyński, as suppressed in (1) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the Bulletin; they should be sent to the Secretariat, ICZN, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, 2 Conservatory Drive, Singapore 117377, Republic of Singapore (e-mail: iczn@nus.edu.sg).