



On the generic nomenclature of nine brachyuran names, with four replacement names and two *nomina protecta* (Crustacea: Decapoda)

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Abstract

Four generic names for Brachyura were found to be preoccupied: *Epithelphusa* Rodríguez & Smalley, 1969, *Forsteria* Bott, 1969, *Odhneria* Sakai, 1983, and *Villalobosus* Ng & Alvarez, 2000. Replacement names are here proposed for them. Two junior homonyms, *Psaumis* Kossmann, 1877, and *Quadrella* Dana, 1851, do not need to be replaced as the senior homonyms have not been used as valid names since 1899, and the implementation of Article 23 of the Code allows the names to be maintained as a *nomina protecta*. The nomenclature of three other names: *Mithrax* Latreille, 1816, *Naxia* Latreille, 1825, and *Thia* Leach, 1816, are also discussed.

Introduction

Tony Rees (Divisional Data Centre, CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, Australia) contacted the authors with a list of names appearing in the recently published world lists of extant Brachyura (Ng *et al.* 2008; De Grave *et al.* 2009) that may be homonyms. A detailed study of these revealed that several generic names were indeed junior homonyms and we also uncovered various nomenclatural issues with several other names. Following the recommendations of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (hereafter referred to as the Code, ICZN, 1999), we have referred the junior homonyms to the authors responsible for them who are still active in the field and requested that they propose replacement names. Some have already taken action (see Cumberlidge *in press*; Galil & Ng *in press*; Guinot & Low *in press*; Ng & Takeda *in press*). Here we attempt to resolve the outstanding nomenclatural problems as well as provide clarification for the priority, authorship and status of several other generic names.

The resolution of recent nomenclatural problems has been made much easier by the Biodiversity Heritage Library (www.biodiversitylibrary.org), Internet Archive (www.archive.org) and Google Books (www.books.google.com), which were invaluable sources of digitized copies of the original works. That our task was made that much easier by their excellent curation and search capabilities is testament to their continued role in providing the starting materials for resolving nomenclatural and taxonomic problems. Articles 23 and 52 of the Code were followed to deal with the various replacement names and the *nomina protecta* dealt with here.

Four generic names were found to be junior homonyms: *Epithelphusa* Rodríguez & Smalley, 1969, *Forsteria* Bott, 1969, *Odhneria* Sakai, 1983, and *Villalobosus* Ng & Alvarez, 2000. Because they do not have available junior synonyms, replacement names are here proposed. Two preoccupied names, *Psaumis* Kossmann, 1877, and *Quadrella* Dana, 1851, are here regarded as a *nomina protecta*, and the names can therefore continue to be used. The nomenclature of three other names: *Mithrax* Desmarest, 1816, *Naxia* Latreille, 1825, and *Thia* Leach, 1816, are discussed.