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A family-group name correction in Aves: Tachuridae instead of Tachurididae Ohlson, Irestedt, Ericson & Fjeldså, 2013

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The genus *Tachuris* Lafresnaye, 1836 was recently placed in a new monotypic family rank taxon, Tachuridae Ohlson, Irestedt, Ericson & Fjeldså, 2013, proposed to reflect the molecular recovery of this taxon as an independent lineage related to Tyrannidae Vigors, 1825 and Rhynchocyclidae Berlepsch, 1907 (Ohlson *et al.* 2013). The purpose of this paper is to propose a correction in the original spelling of the family name Tachurididae used by Ohlson *et al.* (2013) to agree with the rulings of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN 1999; hereafter “Code”), taking account of the complex etymology of the name.

The problem in the form of Ohlson’s *et al.* (2013) family name rests on the correct determination of the stem of its type genus in accordance with the Code (Arts. 29.1, 29.3 and 63). Thus, I briefly summarize here the etymological history of the specific and generic names in question. Vieillot (1817), describing *Sylvia rubrigastra*, was severely criticized by Lafresnaye (1836) for, according to him, having appropriated the information published by Azara (1802) on an apparently undescribed taxon to describe his new species, and this was later assumed to be the case for several other species (Cory & Hellmayr 1927). But Azara (1802) did not formally propose any Latin name for the taxon, instead using the common Spanish name “Del Rey” (description no. 161, p. 72) to refer to the species. Also, regarding the “family” of his “Del Rey” and other small tyrant-flycatchers, Azara (1802, p. 70–71) stated: “*Incluye esta familia muchos paxarillos, que los Güaranís llaman en general Tachurís, y Tarichús, sin que yo sepa por que*” [This family includes many birds that in general the Guaranís call *Tachurís* and *Tarichús*, I don’t know why]. Aiming to give Azara the authorship of Vieillot’s species, Lafresnaye (1836)—using the so-called “French scientific names”—coined *Tachuris roy*, from Azara’s “tachurís” (plural; grub-eaters) plus “rey”. The name was later also given as *Tachuris roi* and *Tachuris rey* (Orbigny 1839), but none of these specific names were proposed nor used for these purposes by Azara. Thus, *Tachuris* was first described available as a generic name by Lafresnaye (1836) from Azara’s vernacular name “tachurís”, as *Tachuris rubrigastra* (Vieillot, 1817) the type species. It is clear that the origin of the word *Tachuris* is not Latin or latinized Greek, but a transliterated indigenous (Guarani/Spanish) word, despite the appearance of its termination -is. Moreover, even if the word is plural (“tachurís”; singular: “tachurí”) in Guarani or Spanish, it must be treated as a noun in the nominative singular (Art. 11.8).

According to the Code, generic names such as *Tachuris* that are not formed from Greek or Latin have their stem formed arbitrarily from either (1) the entire generic name, (2) the entire generic name with its ending elided, or (3) the entire generic name with one or more appropriate linking letters in order to form a more euphonious family-group name (Art. 29.3.3). The original spelling Tachurididae (*sensu* Ohlson *et al.* 2013) uses Tachurid- as the stem, which does not conform to any of the options offered by Art. 29.3.3 alone, as the Code uses “or”, indicating that only one of the options is permissible, rather than the two used by Ohlson *et al.* (2013) (option 2 [ending elided] plus option 3 [linking letter]). Therefore, given that the spelling Tachurididae is not yet in prevailing usage (Art. 29.5; Dubois 2010), I propose that the entire generic name should be treated as the stem, and that the family name should be corrected to Tachuridae Ohlson, Irestedt, Ericson & Fjeldså, 2013, justified emendation (type genus: *Tachuris* Lafresnaye, 1836) to replace Tachurididae Ohlson, Irestedt, Ericson & Fjeldså, 2013 (authorship and date unchanged under Arts. 32.2.2 and 33.2.2). The form Tachuridae as the family-group name for the species of *Tachuris* satisfies Art. 29.3.3 of the Code. Another possible spelling would be Tachuriidae (option 2 of Art. 29.3.3: ending elided), but Tachuridae is less “arbitrary”.

The other names for new families and subfamilies coined by Ohlson *et al.* (2013)—Pipritidae for three species of the genus *Piprites* Cabanis, 1847, Berlepschiinae for *Berlepschia* Ridgway, 1887 and Muscigrallinae for *Muscigralla* Orbigny & Lafresnaye, 1837—are correctly formed.

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