METRIDIIDAE CARLGREN, 1893 (ANTHOZOA) AND METRIDIIDAE SARS, 1902 (COPEPODA): REQUEST FOR A RULING TO ELIMINATE THE HOMONYMY.
Z.N.(S.) 2263

by Daphne Fautin Dunn (Department of Invertebrate Zoology, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118, U.S.A.) and Kuni Hulsemann (Biologische Anstalt Helgoland, Palmaillle 9, 2 Hamburg 50 BRD)

Homonymy as defined in Article 55 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature exists between the family-group names METRIDIIDAE Carlgren, 1893 (Anthozoa) and METRIDIIDAE Sars, 1902 (Copepoda). Both family-group names are correctly derived as specified in Articles 11(e) and 29 of the Code, the former from the generic name Metridium Blainville, 1824, and the latter from the generic name Metridia Boeck, 1865. In neither case has any other name been used to designate the family in question.

2. The generic name Metridium was first proposed by Oken (1815) in volume 3 of Okens Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte, which was rejected for nomenclatural purposes by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (Opinion 417). The next use of the name was by Blainville (1824, p. 470) for the species Metridium dianthus, said by the author to be synonymous with "l'actinia plumosa de Linnaeus". Blainville later (1830, 1834) referred to this species as M. plumosa. Both are now considered synonyms of M. senile (Linnaeus, 1761: 510) (Stephenson, 1935), the name most commonly used in the scientific literature to designate this widespread and variable species of actinian. The generic name Metridium was incorrectly applied by Ehrenberg (1834) to the Red Sea species rhodostomum that was subsequently placed among the Corallimorpharia as type species of the genus Rhodactis (Carlgren, 1949).

3. In his then-definitive work on the actinians of Britain, Gosse (1860) referred to the species now known as Metridium senile by the name Actinoloba dianthus (p. 11), while at the same time listing a family METRIDIIDAE. Since he included no taxa in it, commenting that there were no European representatives, Gosse cannot be considered to have made the name available under Article 11e of the Code, although that family name is clearly derived from the generic name Metridium, which Gosse (1860) apparently

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was using sensu Ehrenberg (1834). In 1893, Carlsgren placed the
genus Metridium in the monospecific subfamily METRIDINAE
(sic) [of SAGARTIDAE (sic)], which he considered new.
Stephenson (1920) raised this category to full family status. Neither
mentioned the family name METRIDIADAE of Gosse (1860). As
currently used, the anthozoan family METRIDIIDAE contains only
the genus Metridium, and either one (Riemann-Zürneck, 1975) or
two (Hand, 1956) species.

4. The copepod family METRIDIIDAE Sars, 1902, as
originally constituted, contained the genera Metridia Boeck, 1865,
and Pleuromamma Giesbrecht (in Giesbrecht and Schmeil), 1898. A
third genus, Gaussia Wolfenden, 1905, was formally placed in this
family by Sewell in 1932.

5. When Boeck introduced the genus-group name Metridia in
1865, he included in it the two new species M. lucens and M.
armata. Subsequently, Giesbrecht (1892) synonymized M. armata
with Calanus longus Lubbock, 1854. Sars (1902) included M.
armata Boeck, 1865, in the synonymy of M. longa (Lubbock, 1854)
and suggested that M. longa “may be regarded as the type of the
genus”. We accept this suggestion as constituting a valid designation
of M. armata as the type-species under Article 69a(iv) of the Code.

6. Pursuant to Article 55a of the Code, we refer this case to
the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.
Although there are no formal grounds for preferring conservation
of one family-group name over the other, in view of the following
facts, we request that the anthozoan name be conserved:

(a) the anthozoan family name antedates that of copepods,
and

(b) in the indices of volumes 46-60 of Biological Abstracts
(1965–1975), the family-group name METRIDIIDAE
is listed only once, that for the actinian; the genus
Metridia is cited from 17 abstracted papers, and the
genus Metridium from 38.

7. In altering the spelling of the copepod family-group name,
we believe the elimination of one of the letters “i” preceding the
ending “dae”, or the alteration of the first “i” to “e” could be
misconstrued as a spelling error. Therefore, we request that the
copepod family-group name be emended as METRIDINIDAE. This
spelling is not based on the genus-group name Metridina, proposed
by Norman (1878, p. 251) “to avoid confusion with Metridium”,
which constitutes an unjustified emendation [ICZN Article 33a(ii)].
However, Norman’s name remains available for use as a possible
replacement name for Metridia should the latter be found invalid
at some future time, another reason we favor this solution to the
problem.
8. We therefore request that the Commission:
   (1) use its plenary powers to rule that the stem of the
       generic name *Metridia* Boeck, 1865 (Copepoda) for
       the purposes of Article 29 is METRIDIN-;
   (2) place the following generic names on the Official List
       of Generic Names in Zoology:
       (a) *Metridium* Blainville, 1824 (Anthozoa) (gender:
           neuter), type species by monotypy *Actinia
           dianthus* Ellis, 1768;
       (b) *Metridia* Boeck, 1865 (Copepoda) (gender:
           feminine), type species by subsequent designation
           by Sars, 1902, *Metridia armata* Boeck, 1865;
           1865;
   (3) place the following specific names on the Official List
       of Specific Names in Zoology:
       (a) *serilis* Linnaeus, 1761, as published in the
           binomen *Priapus serilis* (specific name of the
           senior subjective synonym of *Actinia dianthus
           Ellis*, the type species of *Metridium* Blainville,
           1824);
       (b) *longus* Lubbock, 1854, as published in the
           binomen *Calanus longus* (specific name of the
           senior subjective synonym of *Metridia armata
           Boeck*, the type species of *Metridia* Boeck, 1856);
   (4) place the following family-group names on the
       Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
       (a) METRIDIIDAE Carlgren, 1893 (type genus *Metri-
           dium* Blainville, 1824) (Anthozoa);
       (b) METRIDINIDAE Sars, 1902 (type genus *Metridia
           Boeck*, 1865) (Copepoda);
   (5) place the following family-group name on the Official
       Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names
       in Zoology:
       (a) METRIDIIDAE Sars, 1902 (type genus *Metridia
           Boeck*, 1865) (Copepoda).

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