

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

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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 *Oakens 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 "*Iactinia 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* (Cargren, 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 METRIDIADAE. 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

was using *sensu* Ehrenberg (1834). In 1893, Carlgren 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 METRIDIIDAE 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) *senilis* Linnaeus, 1761, as published in the binomen *Priapus senilis* (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 *Metridium* 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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