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BRIEF COMMUNICATION

A replacement name for the Cretaceous termite genus *Gigantotermes* (Isoptera)

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Abstract. A replacement name is proposed in order to remove a case of secondary homonymy between the Cretaceous termite genus *Gigantotermes* Engel, Barden, & Grimaldi (Isoptera) and the Jurassic lacewing, *Gigantotermes* Haase (Neuroptera). *Ginormotermes* Engel, Barden, & Grimaldi, new name, is established in place of the former, resulting in the new combination, *Ginormotermes rex* (Engel, Barden, & Grimaldi).

INTRODUCTION

Hagen (1862) listed as a fossil form *Apochrysa excelsa* Hagen as a species of lacewing from the famous Jurassic limestone of Solnhofen, Germany. Hagen's name was provided without a description or figure and was therefore a *nomen nudum*. Subsequently, Oppenheim (1888) redescribed Hagen's material and provided a figure for the specimen, thereby validating the name as *Apochrysa excelsa* Oppenheim. Haase (1890), using Oppenheim's figure and description, considered the material to represent an extinct and primitive form of termite, and created the genus *Gigantotermes* Haase to accommodate the species, as *Gigantotermes excelsus*. The species is certainly not a termite and is, in fact, as Hagen and Oppenheim asserted a lacewing, albeit not a chrysopid and certainly not representative of the genus *Apochrysa* Schneider.

Recently, we established the generic name *Gigantotermes* Engel, Barden, & Grimaldi for a fossil species known from a large solidier in the mid-Cretaceous amber of

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northern Myanmar (Engel *et al.*, 2016), and unwittingly created a case of homonymy. A replacement name is therefore established here in order to remove this homonymy.

TAXONOMY

Ginormotermes Engel, Barden, & Grimaldi, new name

ZooBank: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:6CF836F5-CC2B-4D89-9ED0-F96847930AB2

Gigantotermes Engel, Barden, & Grimaldi in Engel *et al.*, 2016: 524, *nomen praeoccupatum* (*nec Gigantotermes* Haase, 1890). Type species: *Gigantotermes rex* Engel, Barden, & Grimaldi in Engel *et al.*, 2016, by original designation.

ETYMOLOGY: The new generic name is a combination of the slang word ‘ginormous’ (a combination of ‘gigantic’ and ‘enormous’, first used in 1948, and meaning, “excessive in size”), and *termes*, meaning, “termite”. The gender of the name is masculine.

INCLUDED SPECIES: The genus contains only the type species, *Ginormotermes rex* (Engel, Barden, & Grimaldi), **new combination**.

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Pharciphyzelus lacefieldi Beckemeyer & Engel, 2011

NOVITATES PALEOENTOMOLOGICAE

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