Africanogyrus nom. n., a replacement name for the preoccupied snail genus Afrogyrus Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 (Gastropoda: Planorbidae)

Hüseyin Özdikmen and Mustafa C. Darılmaz*

Gazi Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Biyoloji Bölümü, Ankara, 06500 Turkey

*Author for correspondence: mdarilmaz@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

A junior homonym was detected amongst freshwater snails genera and the following replacement name is proposed: Africanogyrus nom. n. for Afrogyrus Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 [non Afrogyrus Brinck, 1955]. Accordingly, new combinations are herein proposed for the species currently included in this genus: Africanogyrus coretus (de Blainville, 1826), comb. n.; A. crassilabrum (Morelet, 1860), comb. n.; A. rodriguezensis (Crosse, 1873), comb. n.; and A. starmuehlneri (Brown, 1980), comb. n.

KEY WORDS: Mollusca, Planorbidae, Afrotropical, homonymy, replacement name.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the present note is to bring the taxonomy of Gastropoda into accordance with the requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999). In an effort to reduce the number of homonyms in Planorbidae, we found a genus name, which had been previously published for another taxon, making it a junior homonym. In accordance with Article 60 (ICZN 1999), we propose a substitute name for this genus.

TAXONOMY

Family Planorbidae Rafinesque, 1815

Genus Africanogyrus nom. n.


Etymology: From Africa and the ending -gyrus, derived from the genus name Afrogyrus.

Remarks on nomenclatural change: The name Afrogyrus Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 was established for the African freshwater snail genus with the type species Planorbis coretus de Blainville, 1826 (Gastropoda). Afrogyrus Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 is still used as a valid genus name in the family Planorbidae (e.g. Brown 1980, 1994, 1996, 2001). Currently, this genus includes four species: African Afrogyrus coretus (de Blainville, 1826), A. crassilabrum (Morelet, 1860) and A. starmuehlneri Brown, 1980 from Madagascar, and A. rodriguezensis (Crosse, 1873) from Mauritius (Rodrigues I.).

Nevertheless the name Afrogyrus is already preoccupied. Brinck (1955) established a whirligig beetle subgenus Afrogyrus (with the type species Gyrinus caffer Aubé, 1838) in the genus Aulonogyrus Motschulsky, 1853 (Coleoptera: Gyrinidae). This is also still used as a valid genus name in Gyrinidae (e.g. Löbl & Smetana 2003).

Thus, the name Afrogyrus Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 is a junior homonym of the name Afrogyrus Brinck, 1955. In accordance with Article 60 (ICZN 1999), we
propose the name *Africanogyrus* as a replacement name for *Afrogyrus* Brown & Mandahl-Barth, 1973 [non *Afrogyrus* Brinck, 1955].

Species included: *Africanogyrus coretus* (de Blainville, 1826), **comb. n.**; *Africanogyrus crassilabrum* (Morelet, 1860), **comb. n.**; *Africanogyrus rodriguezensis* (Crosse, 1873), **comb. n.**; and *Africanogyrus starmuehlneri* (Brown, 1980), **comb. n.**

Note: The full synonymy for the above species is given by Brown (1994).

**REFERENCES**


