Short Communication


SCHOCHAPUS NOMEN NOVUM PRO APUS SCHOCH, 1868 (ROTIFERA)

ABSTRACT

Rotifer generic name Apus Schoch, 1868, is preoccupied by a bird genus Apus Scopoli, 1777.

Hence, the former has been replaced by Schochapus nom. nov.

It is observed that generic name Apus has been proposed for three different genera of animals in widely separated phyla. These are:

(i) Apus Scopoli, 1777, for a genus of Aves;

(ii) Apus Cuvier, 1798, for a genus of Crustacea, Phyllopoda; and

(iii) Apus Schoch, 1868, for a genus of Rotifera; vide Neave (1939).

Among these, Apus Scopoli, 1777, with its type species Hirundo apus Linn., is oldest and validated under plenary powers (Opinion 502) by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. The Crustacean generic name Apus has already been substituted by Triops Schrank, 1803. However, no attempt seems to have been made to replace the invalid rotiferan Apus.

Therefore, it is put on record here that as the name Apus Scopoli, 1777, is preoccupied for a bird genus, the name Apus Schoch, 1868, is a junior homonym of the former and hence not available for the rotiferan genus. As no other synonym of the latter has come across as yet, a new replacement name is proposed here, as follows:

Phylum : Rotifera

Genus Schochapus Varshney nom. nov.
(Pro Apus Schoch, 1868)

The type-species and other requirements of this new genus will remain the same as mentioned for Apus by Schoch (1868).

According to the Zoological Records (1868) this interesting little work of Schoch (1868), though meant to be more of a popular than a scientific treatise, gives a very fair account of the general structure of the Rotifera, and, following Dujardin's classification of the Rotifers into R. sessilia, R. natantia, and R. repentia, proceeds to give details of some of the families of each suborder, as well as of the more remarkable genera and species. There are sixty figures, on eight plates; and though roughly drawn, the species are almost always recognizable.

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