SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

MESONYCHILESTES A NEW NAME PROPOSED FOR LESTES YAN DEFA AND TANG YINGJUN (CONDYLARTHRA : MAMMALIA) NEC LESTES LEACH (ODONATA)

Yan Defa & Tang Yingjun (1976) described a new fossil genus Lestes with type species Lestes conexus sp.nov., for a mesonychid (Condylarthra) from the Palaeocene of Anhui (Chaia). Wang Banyue (1976) in the same journal added another species, L. datangensis sp.nov., from Late Palaeocene of Guangdong. These authors apparently were not aware that Lestes is a name pre-occupied by Lestes Leach (1815) with type species Lestes sponsa Hans, a damselfly (Zygoptera : Odonata : Insecta). Since then several damsel-flies were accommodated in this genus. Further, the insect genus is placed in a separate family Lestidae Jacobson and Bianchi, and Fraser (1933) through erected a new subfamily, but according to the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature the authorship of the subfamily Lestinae belongs to Jacobson & Bianchi.

Under articles 53 & 56 of the Rules, Lestes Yan Defa & Tang Yingjun (Mammalia) is a junior homonym of Lestes Leach (Insecta), and hence not available for scientific use. Since no other synonym for the new genus Lestes Yan Defa & Tang Yingjun is available, a new name Mesonychilestes nom. nov. pro Lestes Yan Defa & Tang Yingjun nec Lestes Leach, 1815, is proposed now.

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Fraser, F. C. 1933. Fauna of British India including Ceylon & Burma, Odonata, I: x + 423, 180 figs., 1 map.

