

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 damselflies 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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