

COMMENTS ON THE REQUEST TO DETERMINE THE GENERIC NAMES
OF THE BABOON AND THE MANDRILL. Z.N.(S.) 2093

(see vol. 33: 46-60)

(1) by L.B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke
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The type-species of *Papio* P.L. Stenius Muller, 1773 is *Simia sphinx* Linnaeus, 1758, by Linnean tautonymy. Stenius Muller (1773: 123) cited *Papio* of Jonstonus and Ray under *Simia sphinx*, as did Linnaeus (1758: 25). There is therefore no need to use the plenary powers to designate *Simia sphinx* L., 1758, the type-species of *Papio* Stenius Muller, 1773. Also, because of the absence of any type material of *Simia sphinx*, the plenary powers are not needed to designate the neotype of that species; the designation in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 33: 54 is fully valid. Alternative A, para (a) is thus entirely superfluous, and in para (b) (1) the words "type-species under the plenary powers in A(a) above" should be changed to "type-species by Linnean tautonymy".

In order to save *Papio* Erxleben, 1777, it is not only necessary to suppress *Papio* Stenius Muller, 1773, for purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy, but to do so also for all uses of *Papio* before its publication by Erxleben in 1777.

The type-species of *Papio* Erxleben, 1777 is likewise *Simia sphinx* L., 1758, by Linnean tautonymy.

Papio Stenius Muller, 1773, and *Papio* Erxleben, 1777, are thus not only homonyms, but also objective synonyms. What, therefore, is the use of suppressing one to save the other? The only difference is in the author's name and the year. The purposes of Alternative B would be reached just as well if the plenary powers were used to designate *Cynocephalus papio* Desmarest, 1820 the type-species of *Papio* Stenius Muller. In this way only one, not two actions under the plenary powers are needed.

Alternative B, para (a) would run as follows:

(a) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species prior to the Ruling here requested for the nominal genus *Papio* Stenius Muller, 1773, and having done so to designate *Cynocephalus papio* Desmarest, 1820, as the type-species of that genus; In the succeeding paragraphs, *Papio* Erxleben, 1777, should be replaced by *Papio* Stenius Muller, 1773, and para (d) can be deleted.

The author's name for *Papio* is usually cited as Muller, but in fact it is more correctly Stenius Muller.

(2) by E. Delson and P. H. Napier

Dr Holthuis's comment makes certain alterations necessary to both Alternatives A and B of our original request.

In Alternative A it is no longer necessary to designate the type-species of *Papio* Muller, as Linnean tautonymy constitutes an original designation under Article 68. Alternative A should therefore now read:

Alternative A: to uphold priority and thus

(a) place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

- (i) *Papio* Muller, 1773 (gender: masculine), type-species, by Linnean tautonymy, *Simia sphinx* Linnaeus, 1758, as defined by the neotype designated by Delson & Napier, 1976:
- (ii) *Chaeropithecus* ...

In Alternative B there is now a question as to whether *Cynocephalus papio* Desmarest, 1820, the Guinea baboon, should be designated as type-species of *Papio* Muller (as suggested by Dr. Holthuis) or of *Papio* Erxleben. Nomenclaturally speaking, the two are objectively identical, but they differ both in original content and in taxonomic usage. Indeed, it is this difference that is the whole point of the presentation of two alternatives to the Commission, as follows:

Papio Muller, 1773, the candidate of Alternative A, is zoologically speaking a hotch-potch from its included species (*S. nemestrina* L., 1766, *S. apedia* L., 1758 and *S. sphinx* L., 1758). However, although its type-species by Linnean tautonymy, *S. sphinx*, may be either a drill or a mandrill from its cited synonyms, it is described unequivocally as a mandrill and is so fixed by the neotype which we have jointly designated.

Papio Erxleben, 1777, includes not only all the original content of *Papio* Muller, 1773, but two further mandrills, *S. maimon* and *S. mormon* L., 1766. However, Erxleben's concept of the type-species, *S. sphinx*, was composite; he described a Guinea baboon (with red-brown coat and differing from Linnaeus's animal in lacking whiskers) although he included mandrills among the cited synonyms. But the generic name has come to be attached to Erxleben's description, so that any citation of it with him as author implies a "savannah" baboon, and it is the extensive usage of the name in that sense which Alternative B requests the Commission to uphold. Briefly, while it is entirely appropriate to interpret *Papio* Erxleben as a "savannah" baboon, to re-define *Papio* Muller in that way would be less than satisfactory and, indeed, confusing. To follow Dr Holthuis's suggestion would be to compound the existing confusion; we offer a choice between two ways of removing its cause.

We accept Dr. Holthuis's point in his second paragraph and amend the first part of Alternative B as follows:

Alternative B: to uphold widespread current usage and thus:

- (1) suppress the generic name *Papio* Muller, 1773, and all uses of *Papio* prior to its publication by Erxleben in 1777, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy

In citing Philipp Ludwig Statius Muller as Muller we follow the examples of the printed catalogues of the libraries of the British Museum (Natural History) and the Zoological Society of London.