

Case 3072

***Crioceris* Geoffroy, 1762, *Lilioceris* Reitter, 1912 and other genus-group names with the suffix *-ceris* in the family CHRYSOMELIDAE (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed Official Correction of gender to feminine**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 80.4 of the Code, is to fix the gender as feminine for the names of two economically important genera of beetles recognized as crop pests, *Crioceris* Geoffroy, 1762, *Lilioceris* Reitter, 1912, and other genus-group names with the suffix *-ceris* in the family CHRYSOMELIDAE.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; CHRYSOMELIDAE; *Crioceris*; *Crioceris asparagi*; *Lilioceris*; *Lilioceris lili*; beetles; crop pests.

1. The name *Crioceris* was first used by Geoffroy (1762) in *Histoire abrégée des insectes qui se trouvent aux environs de Paris* vol. 1, p. 237. Names published in that work were ruled to be unavailable for purposes of nomenclature, and the work was placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoological Nomenclature in Opinion 228 (*Opinions and Declarations Rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*, 4: 211–220 (21 April 1954)). The name *Crioceris* was subsequently placed on the Official List with the following author and date of publication: Müller, 1764. An application for the conservation of 24 of the generic names published by Geoffroy (1762) was later received from I.M. Kerzhner (*Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia*) and published as Case 2292 (BZN 48: 107–133 (June 1991)) and approved by the Commission. In the resultant Opinion 1754 para. A(1) (BZN 51: 58–70 (March 1994)) some of the generic names published in that work were deemed to be available and in para. K(5)(h) the entry on the Official List for *Crioceris* Müller, 1764 was emended to *Crioceris* Geoffroy, 1762.

2. An application (Case Z.N.(S.) 1786) to the Commission to designate, under the plenary power, type species for the nominal genera *Crioceris* ‘Müller, 1764’ and *Lema* Fabricius, 1798 and to place these names and *Lilioceris* Reitter, 1912 on the Official List was published in BZN 24: 116–118 (April, 1967). The Commission approved the proposals in Opinion 908 (BZN 27: 12–13 (June 1970)) and the names *Crioceris* ‘Müller, 1764’ and *Lilioceris* Reitter, 1912 were both placed on the Official List with their gender given as masculine (BZN 27: 12, paras. (2)(a) and (2)(c) respectively). The name *Crioceris* is based on the Greek words κριος (krios: ram) and κέρας (kéras: horn). The name *Crioceris* has been treated as feminine since it was established.

Geoffroy (1762, p. 237) left no doubt that he intended *Crioceris* to be feminine since he listed as the first species *C. rubra* (L.). Müller (1764, p. xiii) did not include any nominal species but later (Müller, 1766, p. 85) published numerous species-group names in this nominal genus, which clearly supported the use of the generic name as feminine (e.g. *duodecimpunctata*, *cyanella*, *merdigera*, *melanopoda*, *hirta* and *elongata*). Fabricius (1775, p. 120) also treated *Crioceris* as feminine by using the species-group name *bifasciata* in addition to others in the previous example. Additionally, Fabricius (1776, p. 222) used the name *C. duodecimpunctata* ('magnitudo et statura *C. duodecimpunctatae*'). In the previous (3rd, 1985) edition of the Code a genus-group name that is or ends in a noun of variable gender, masculine or feminine, was to be treated as masculine, irrespective of the gender of that noun, unless its author stated, when establishing the name, that it was feminine, or treated it as feminine in combination with a species-group name. In the current (4th, 2000) edition of the Code a genus-group name that is or ends in a Greek word transliterated into Latin without other changes takes the gender given for that word in standard Greek dictionaries (Article 30.1.2, see example). The gender of the suffix *-ceris* is neuter (since κέρασ (*keras* — horn) is neuter in Greek) however, and the generic name *Crioceris* is treated as feminine in current use.

3. The generic names *Lilioceris* Reitter, 1912 and *Metopoceris* Heinze, 1931 are also treated as feminine in current use. The names *Pseudocrioceris* Pic, 1916 and *Donaciocrioceris* Pic, 1936 were treated as masculine or feminine by the original and subsequent authors. In other animal groups generic names ending in *-ceris* are treated as feminine: *Cerceris* Latreille, 1803 (Hymenoptera, SPHECIDAE, see Poole & Gentili, 1966, pl. 320f) or *Cleoceris* Boisduval, 1834 (Lepidoptera, NOCTUIDAE, see Boisduval, 1834, pl. 71, figs. 1, 2). However, usage is not consistent since the name *Anniceris* Stål, 1878 (Orthoptera) was used as masculine (see Kirby, 1910, p. 422).

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to rule that the gender of generic names in the family CHRYSOMELIDAE ending with the suffix *-ceris* are feminine;
- (2) to emend the entries on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology for the following names to record that their gender is feminine:
 - (a) *Crioceris* Geoffroy, 1762 (gender: feminine), type species, by subsequent designation *Chrysomela asparagi* Linnaeus, 1758 and placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology by the Commission in Opinion 908, Ruling (2)(a);
 - (b) *Lilioceris* Reitter, 1912 (gender: feminine), type species, by subsequent designation by Chûjô, 1951, *Attelabus lili* Scopoli, 1763 and placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology in Opinion 908, Ruling (2)(c).

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).