REQUEST THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION RULE TO CORRECT HOMONYMY IN NAMES OF THE FAMILY-GROUP BASED ON GERRIS AND GERRES. Z.N.(S.) 1556

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If homonymy between names in the family-group results from similarity but not identity of the names of their type-genera, the case is to be referred to the Commission (1961, International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Art. 55(a)). An uncorrected case of homonymy involves the family-group name GERRIDAE, in current use both In Insecta (Hemiptera) and in Pisces (Perciformes).

Gerris Fabricius, 1794 (Ent. syst. 4: 187), (Hemiptera), is the type-genus of the family-group name GERRIDA Leach, 1815 (in Brewster’s Edinburgh Encycl. 9: 123) more commonly attributed to GERRIDES Amyot and Serville, 1843 (Histoire Naturelle des Insectes, Hémiptères : 410). The emended name GERRIDAE is employed for a cosmopolitan group of about 50 genera and 500 species of insects, the water striders, that are familiar inhabitants of the surface film of lacustrine waters, streams, brackish waters, and even (Halobates) the open ocean. The type-species of Gerris Fabricius is Cimex lacustris Linnaeus, 1758, by designation by Latreille, 1810 (Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arachn. Ins. : 259, 434) [original not seen by authors, reference from Van Duzee, 1917 (Catalogue of the Hemiptera of America north of Mexico, Univ. Calif. Tech. Bull. Entomol. 2 : 426)].

Gerres [Cuvier, nomen nudum, in] Quoy & Gaimard, 1824 (Voy. “Uranie” (Zool.) : 292), (Perciformes), is the type-genus of the family-group name GERREIFORMES Bleeker, 1859 (Enumeratio specierum piscium hucusque in Archipelago Indico observatarum . . . , Act. Soc. Sci. Indo-Neerl. 6 : xx), where used as a subfamily of the MAENOIDEI, or GERREOGIDEI (Bleeker, op. cit.: 32, 222, 236, 244, 271) where ranked as a family. Gill (1862, Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad. 14 : 238, 245) employed the subfamily name GERREINAE in the family GERREOIDAE, attributed by him to Bleeker. Subsequent authors have followed Günther (1862, Cat. Acanthopterygii Pharyngognathi and Anacanthini Br. Mus. 4 : 252) in spelling the family name GERRIDAE. This family consists of five genera and about 40 species of tropical and subtropical shore fishes, some of which enter streams; they are most common in the American tropics and in the East Indian region. The gerrid fishes have by some authors been united with the LEIIONATHIDAE under the latter name. In both groups the mouth is highly protrusible, but this condition is due to convergent evolution and the union of these families does not have a firm biological basis (Starks, 1911, Leland Stanford jr., Univ. Publ. Univ. Ser. No. 5 : 5–17). The type-species of Gerres Quoy and Gaimard is Gerres vaigiensis Quoy & Gaimard, by designation by Jordan (1917, Leland Stanford jr., Univ. Publ. Univ. Ser. No. 27 : 117–118).

It is the consensus of both ichthyologists and entomologists with whom we
have discussed this matter that among most biologists the name *Gerridae* is more widely known and generally associated with the group of insects than with the fishes. The hemipterous family is larger, is more wide-ranging geographically and ecologically, and is a more conspicuous and familiar group to the layman. The use of the family name in insects antedates that in fishes. It seems appropriate, therefore, that the name *Gerridae* be maintained for a family of the Hemiptera.

This is a request that the Commission emend the name for the fish-family *Gerridae* (Order Perciformes) in order to eliminate the homonymy with the insect family *Gerridae* (Order Hemiptera). Correction to *Gerreidae* would be in keeping with Bleeker’s original spelling.

The Commission is therefore requested:

(1) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
   (a) *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794 (gender: feminine), type-species, by designation by Latreille, 1810, *Cimex lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758 (Insecta, Hemiptera);
   (b) *Gerres* Quoy & Gaimard, 1824 (gender: masculine), type-species, by designation by Jordan, 1917, *Gerres vaigiensis* Quoy & Gaimard, 1824 (Pisces);

(2) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
   (a) *lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Cimex lacustris* (type-species of *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794) (Insecta, Hemiptera);
   (b) *vaigiensis* Quoy & Gaimard, 1824, as published in the binomen *Gerres vaigiensis* (type-species of *Gerres* Quoy & Gaimard, 1824) (Pisces);

(3) to place the following family-group names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
   (a) *Gerridae* (correction of *Gerrida*) Leach, 1815 (type-genus *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794) (Insecta, Hemiptera);
   (b) *Gerreidae* (correction of *Gerreiformes*) Bleeker, 1859 (type-genus *Gerres* Quoy & Gaimard, 1824) (Pisces);

(4) to place the following family-group names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:
   (a) *Gerrida* Leach, 1815 (type-genus *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794) (an incorrect original spelling for *Gerridae*);
   (b) *Gerreiformes* Bleeker, 1859 (type-genus *Gerres* Quoy & Gaimard, 1824) (an incorrect original spelling for *Gerreidae*);
   (c) *Gerridae* Günther, 1862 (type-genus *Gerres* Quoy & Gaimard, 1824) (an incorrect spelling for *Gerreidae*).