PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENIARY POWERS TO DESIGNATE A TYPE-SPECIES FOR REGINA BAIRD & GIRARD, 1853 (REPTILIA). Z.N.(S.) 1443

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The object of this application is to suppress under the plenary powers the specific name leberis Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen Coluber leberis, a name recently discovered to be a senior subjective synonym of another specific name which is commonly in use. The use of the plenary powers is also requested in order to designate a type-species for the genus Regina Baird & Girard which was originally based on a misidentification of Coluber leberis.

2. On zoological grounds it is apparent that the nominal species Coluber leberis Linnaeus, 1758 (Syst. Nat. (ed. 10) 1: 216) is a senior synonym of Coluber occipitomaculatus Storer, 1839 (Rept. Mass. 230), accepted since 1853 as Storeria occipitomaculata (Storer). The original description of the species leberis gives the following information: male, 110 ventrals, 50 caudals, dark-striped, habitat in "Canada" fide Kalm. This description can fit only Storeria occipitomaculata auctorum, even if the geographic area is expanded to include eastern United States. Klauber (Copeia, 1948: 11-12) has already noted the possibility of taxonomic equivalence of Coluber leberis Linnaeus, and Coluber occipitomaculata Storer, but was not prepared to express positive opinion. For our own part, we hold no doubts in the matter.

3. Baird & Girard, 1853 (Cat. n. Amer. Rept.: 45) set up the new genus Regina. In the Introduction to this work they state (: viii) "... the first mentioned species is to be considered as the type of the genus ". The type-species of Regina is " Regina leberis B. & G." and the synonymy given shows that the specific name is from Coluber leberis Linnaeus, 1758. However, the description of the genus and the species, as well as the inclusion of Coluber septemvittatus Say, 1825 (J. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad. 4: 240) (=Natrix septemvittata) in the specific synonymy clearly show that Baird & Girard misidentified the type-species in applying to it the name Coluber leberis Linnaeus. Almost without exception, however, it has been taken for granted that the type-species of Regina is the species now known as Natrix septemvittata.

4. Four species universally referred for the past forty years or more to the large genus Natrix have recently been segregated generically (Smith & Huheey, 1960, Trans. Kans. Acad. Sci. 62, in press). This group of species has often been referred to informally as the "Regina" group, since it includes Coluber septemvittatus, commonly accepted as the type-species of the nominal genus Regina, in turn the earliest generic name having as type any of the four species of the group.
5. Two other names have been based upon species of the "Regina" group: (1) Cora Jan, 1863, (Elenco Sist. Ofidi: 74, type by monotypy, Regina kirtlandii Kennicott, 1856), invalid because a junior homonym of Cora Selys, 1853 (Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg., Suppl.: 71; Odonata) and of Cora Bonaparte, 1854 (Ann. Sci. nat. Paris, (4) 1(3): 138; Aves); and (2) Clonophis Cope, 1889 (Proc. U.S. nat. Mus. [1888]11: 391, type by monotypy, Regina kirtlandii Kennicott, 1856). Neither Cora nor Clonophis has been utilized to a noteworthy degree, either formally or informally, whereas the name Regina was frequently used in a formal sense prior to 1900, and occasionally in an informal sense since 1900.

6. In accordance with the spirit of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, as stated in the Preamble to the Rules, we recommend suppression of the name Coluber leberis Linnaeus, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, in order that the name Storeria occipitomaculata may remain applicable to the species to which that name has been applied for over a hundred years. The generic name Storeria was published by Baird & Girard, 1853 (op. cit.: 135), type-species, by original designation, Tropidonotus dekayi Holbrook, 1842 (N. Amer. Herpet. 4: 53).

7. In accordance with the procedure outlined by the Code, we also recommend designation of Coluber septemvittatus Say as the type-species of Regina, in order that the name Regina may remain applicable as interpreted for over a hundred years.

8. No family-group names have ever been based upon Regina or Storeria. Both genera are currently placed in the family Colubridae and commonly in the subfamily Natricinae.

9. We therefore request that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should:—

1) use its plenary powers:
   (a) to suppress the specific name leberis Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen Coluber leberis, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
   (b) to suppress all designations of type-species for the nominal genus Regina Baird & Girard, 1853, made prior to the Ruling now requested, and, having done so, to designate Coluber septemvittatus Say, 1825, to be the type-species of that genus;

2) place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
   (a) Regina Baird & Girard, 1853 (gender: feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above, Coluber septemvittatus Say, 1825;
   (b) Storeria Baird & Girard, 1853 (gender: feminine), type-species, by original designation, Tropidonotus dekayi Holbrook, 1842;

3) place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
   (a) septemvittatus Say, 1825, as published in the binomen Coluber septemvittatus (type-species of Regina Baird & Girard, 1853);
(b) *dekayi* Holbrook, 1842, as published in the binomen *Tropidonotus dekayi* (type-species of *Storeria* Baird & Giraud, 1853);
(c) *occipitomaculatus* Storer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Coluber occipitomaculatus*;

(4) place the specific name *leberis* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Coluber leberis* (suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;

(5) place the following generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
(a) *Cora* Bonaparte, 1854 (a junior homonym of *Cora* Selys, 1853);
(b) *Cora* Jan, 1863 (a junior homonym of *Cora* Selys, 1853).