

**EREMIAS WIEGMANN, 1834 (REPTILIA LACERTILIA):
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE SPECIES BY USE
OF THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.)1172**

By the Secretary, International Commission on
Zoological Nomenclature

The present application involves the correction of an item in Opinion 92 (*Smiths. misc. Colls* vol. 73 (4), pp. 339–340). *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834, *Herpetol. Mexic.* (1) p.9, was one of nine reptile generic names then placed on the Official List. *Lacerta velox* Pallas, 1771, *Reise Russland* vol. 1, p. 457, was stated to be the type species of *Eremias*, but this was incorrect. In consequence, when preparations were made for the publication of the first instalment of the Official List of Generic Names in book form, entry no. 432 for *Eremias* was withdrawn, pending further enquiries.

2. Wiegmann established *Eremias* with two included species, *L. velox* Pallas, 1771, and *L. variabilis* Pallas, 1811, *Zoographia* vol. 3, p. 31. He designated neither as type species. The first valid subsequent designation was made by Fitzinger, 1843, *Syst. Rept.*, p. 21, and he chose *L. variabilis*. The genus is, however, currently treated as though *L. velox* was its type species (e.g. Smith, M. 1935, *Fauna British India*, Rept. Amph. vol. 2, 381), and in 1928 Lantz (*Bull. Mus. Géorgie* (4), p. 2 established a new subgenus *Ommateremias* with *Lacerta arguta* Pallas, 1773, *Reise Russland* vol. 2, p. 718 as type species. *L. arguta* is now considered the valid senior synonym of *L. variabilis*.

3. Stability of nomenclature would thus clearly be best served if the Commission were to use its plenary powers to designate *L. velox* as type species of *Eremias*. It is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genus *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834, and having done so, to designate *Lacerta velox* Pallas, 1771 as type species of that genus;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834 (gender: feminine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Lacerta velox* Pallas, 1771 (Name No. 432);
 - (b) *Ommateremias* Lantz, 1928 (gender: feminine), type species, by original designation, *Lacerta arguta* Pallas, 1772;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in

Zoology:

- (a) *velox* Pallas, 1771, as published in the binomen *Lacerta velox* (specific name of type species of *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834);
- (b) *arguta* Pallas, 1773, as published in the binomen *Lacerta arguta* (specific name of type species of *Ommateremias* Lantz, 1928).

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL THAT *CHROMIS* CUVIER
IN DESMAREST, 1814, AND GENERIC NAMES ENDING IN *-CHROMIS*
BE RULED TO BE MASCULINE. Z.N.(S.)2329
(see vol. 37, pp. 247-255)

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We support the request of Bailey, Robins & Greenwood that *Chromis* Cuvier in Desmarest, 1814, and all generic names ending in *-chromis* be ruled to be masculine.

We question, however, the necessity of exercising the plenary powers in order to effect the result requested. As pointed out by Nye (1980, *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 37(3), p. 188), 'Under the Code, Article 30(a)i, the Commission can rule on the gender of a genus-group name without the use of the plenary powers'.