SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

A CORRECTION CONCERNING THE GENDER OF THE GENERIC NAME *GOMPHOIDES* (ANISOPTERA: *GOMPHIDAE*)

LEONORA K. GLOYD

Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104, USA

The generic name *Gomphoides* (Selys, 1854), by virtue of the adjectival endings of the species originally and subsequently included in the genus is to be regarded as of the feminine gender, not masculine as stated in my recent paper (1973, Occ. Papers, Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan No. 668). *Phyllogomphoides* (Belle, 1970), as indicated by the species included, is masculine.

In attempting to change the endings of specific names to agree with the supposed gender of a generic name, one may find himself rather than the original describer to be in error. This is the embarrassing position in which I find myself in regard to the gender for the genus *Gomphoides* as given in my recent paper (GLOYD, 1973:3). After its publication, I learned from Professor H. D. Cameron of the Greek & Latin and Classical Studies Department, University of Michigan, that Greek words ending in *-oides* in their Latin transliteration form can be either masculine, feminine, or neuter.

According to Article 30 (a)(i)(2) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1964:31), "A noun of variable gender, masculine or feminine, is to be treated as masculine, unless its author states, when he first publishes the name, that it is feminine, or so treats it in combination with an adjectival specific name". Yet, under (ii) page 33, we find, "Examples.- Names ending in *-ides, -istes, -ites, -odes,* or *-oides* are masculine." If only the second statement is considered, one easily can be led astray. Because transliterated Greek names ending in *-oides* are of variable gender, that of *Gomphoides* rightly should be determined in accordance with the first stipulation as given on page 31 of the Code.

179

Of the species with adjectival names that SELYS (1854:74; preprint:55) included in the original description of *Gomphoides* (subgenus: groups 1 and 2) two have unmistakable feminine endings. Adjectival names of species he subsequently included are also of the feminine gender. He undoubtedly treated *Gomphoides* as feminine. Accordingly, the inalienable right of the describer is to be respected. My assumption that the name was masculine was an error, and the species now limited to this genus should have names in agreement with the feminine gender of *Gomphoides*, viz., *infumata* (Rambur), *perdita* (Förster) and *praevia* St. Quentin.

For *Negomphoides* n.n. (now considered a synonym of *Gomphoides* by GLOYD, 1973:2), MUTTKOWSKI (1910:81) retained feminine endings of the three species and one subspecies included in it. BELLE (1970:120-159) in accepting this name, changed endings of the species he assigned to it from feminine to masculine; and for his new genus *Phyllogomphoides* (pp. 112-113) designated *Gomphoides fulginosa* Hagen as the type species, changing its gender to masculine. *Phyllogomphoides*, because of the describer's choice, must be considered as of the masculine gender. The species with adjectival names I provisionally transferred to this genus from *Gomphoides* (or *Negomphoides* of Muttkowski and Belle) are correctly listed with masculine endings (GLOYD, 1973:6).

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