

**FAMILY-GROUP NAMES BASED ON  
AMPHIPTERYX, DIPHLEBIA, PHILOGANGA, LESTOIDEA,  
RIMANELLA AND PENTAPHLEBIA (ZYGOPTERA)**

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The nomenclature in a recent reclassification of the Amphipterygidae, Diphlebiidae and Lestoideidae sensu DAVIES & TOBIN (1984, *The dragonflies of the world*, Vol. 1, SIO, Utrecht) by R. NOVELO-GUTIERREZ (1995, *Odonatologica* 24: 73-87) is not consistent with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The family-group names, with type genera relevant to the problem, and with their date of introduction, are summarized, and a correct nomenclature of the Novelo-Gutierrez classification is presented.

**INTRODUCTION**

Recently, NOVELO-GUTIERREZ (1995) published a reclassification of the Amphipterygidae, Diphlebiidae, Rimanellidae and Lestoideidae sensu DAVIES & TOBIN (1984). The present paper is not arguing the systematics of that paper, which seems to be an important improvement compared with the previous classifications (e.g. DAVIES & TOBIN, 1984). The nomenclature used by Novelo-Gutierrez, however, is inconsistent with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1985), and I am here presenting the correct names of the categories distinguished.

**PRINCIPLES OF NOMENCLATURE**

For the principle of the status of family-group names it is important to know two articles of the Code. According to article 35(a), the family group "includes all taxa at the ranks of superfamily, family, subfamily, tribe, and any other rank below subfamily and above genus that may be desired, such as subtribe". Article 36(a) of

the Code says “Statement of the Principle of Coordination. – A name established for a taxon at any rank in the family group is deemed to be simultaneously established with the same author and date for taxa based upon the same name-bearing type (type genus) at other ranks in the family group, with appropriate mandatory change of suffix [Art. 34a]...” It is also important to realise that species-group names only compete for priority with other species-group names, genus-group names with other genus-group names and, thus, family-group names with other family-group names. This principle is most explicitly explained in the introduction of the said code (p. xiv) “... Accordingly, when a taxon at any rank is delineated by a taxonomist it may contain several name-bearing types, *each with a name that is available for use at that rank ...*” [my italics]. This is regulated under article 23(d) “Valid names. – The Principle of Priority requires that a taxon formed by bringing together into a single taxon at one rank two or more previously established nominal taxa within the family group, genus, or species group takes as its valid name the name determined in accordance with the Principle of Priority (Sect. a), with a change of suffix or termination if required [Art. 34]”.

Novelo-Gutierrez’ misinterpretation of the Code is apparent in his statement on p. 83, saying that “... the Pentaplebiinae should be erected, containing the genera *Pentaplebia* and *Rimanella*. The former is the type genus by priority”. This statement is an error. In determining the valid family-group names the oldest of the available synonymous names has to be used. The priority of the generic name plays no role here.

#### AVAILABLE FAMILY-GROUP NAMES

I am here summarizing the family-group names with type-genera included in one of the families mentioned in the classification of Novelo-Gutierrez.

For the so-called Diphlebiidae:

- *Diphlebia* Selys, 1896, – introduced by DAVIES & TOBIN (1984: 21);
- *Lestoidea* Tillyard, 1913, – introduced by MUNZ (1919: 17, as *Lestoidinae* [sic!]; and not by TILLYARD & FRASER (1938: 157), as given by BRIDGES (1993). With the original description of the genus, TILLYARD (1913: 428) erected the légion *Lestoidea*, which I do not consider an act to make an available family-group name (see also under *Amphipteryx* below);
- *Phyloganga* Kirby, 1890, – introduced by KENNEDY (1920: 22), and not by KENNEDY (1925: 305), as suggested by BRIDGES (1993).

In the Amphipterygidae Novelo-Gutierrez included:

- *Amphipteryx* Selys, 1853, – introduced by TILLYARD (1917: 275) as Amphipterygini. This is the first use I have found. The claim by BRIDGES (1993) that the name was introduced by SELYS (1853) is not correct, since the name *Amphipteryx* for the ‘légion’ was not declined, i.e. there is no suffix to denote another status than a genus-group name. Herewith, Selys did not fulfil Article 11(f)(i), “A family-group name must, when first published, (1) be a noun in the nominative plural based on the generic name ...”;
- *Pentaplebia* Förster, 1909, – introduced by NOVELO-GUTIERREZ (1995: 83);
- *Rimanella* Needham, 1934, – introduced by DAVIES & TOBIN (1984: 27).

Table I

Nomenclature for the classification as proposed by NOVELO-GUTIERREZ (1995). – [Authorities in Novelo-Gutierrez' list in brackets since they were not mentioned in the original publication]

This nomenclature	Nomenclature of Novelo-Gutierrez (1995)
LESTOIDEIDAE Munz, 1919	DIPHLEBIIDAE [Davies & Tobin, 1984]
Philoganginae Kennedy, 1920	Diphlebiinae [Davies & Tobin, 1984]
<i>Diphlebia</i> Selys, 1896	<i>Diphlebia</i>
<i>Philoganga</i> Kirby, 1890	<i>Philoganga</i>
Lestoideinae Munz, 1919	Lestoideinae [Munz, 1919]
<i>Lestoidea</i> Tillyard, 1913	<i>Lestoidea</i>
AMPHIPTERYGIDAE Tillyard, 1917	AMPHIPTERYGIDAE [Tillyard, 1917]
Amphipteryginae Tillyard, 1917	Amphipteryginae [Tillyard, 1917]
<i>Amphipteryx</i> Selys, 1853	<i>Amphipteryx</i>
<i>Devadatta</i> Kirby, 1890	<i>Devadatta</i>
Rimanellinae Davies & Tobin, 1984	Pentaphlebiinae [Novelo-Gutierrez, 1995]
<i>Pentaphlebia</i> Förster, 1909	<i>Pentaphlebia</i>
<i>Rimanella</i> Needham, 1934	<i>Rimanella</i>

The correct family-group name for a group made of *Diphlebia*, *Philoganga* and *Lestoidea* is thus based on *Lestoidea*, introduced by MUNZ (1919): Lestoideidae. Novelo-Gutierrez also distinguishes two subfamilies, one including *Diphlebia* and *Philoganga*, the other *Lestoidea* only. Their correct names are Philoganginae and Lestoideinae respectively.

The correct family-group name for a group made of *Amphipteryx*, *Devadatta*, *Pentaphlebia* and *Rimanella* is, indeed, Amphipterygidae. The subfamily, uniting *Amphipteryx* and *Devadatta*, is correctly named Amphipteryginae. However, the oldest available family-group name for the group uniting *Pentaphlebia* and *Rimanella* is Rimanellinae. Table I provides a review of the nomenclature as used by Novelo-Gutierrez and as given in the present publication.

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