

SUPPORT FOR DR. H. W. LEVI'S APPLICATION REGARDING THE  
GENERIC NAME "THERIDION" WALCKENAER, 1805 (CLASS  
ARACHNIDA)

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 1008)

(For the application submitted see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12 : 27—30)

(a) By **HARRIET E. FRIZZELL**

(*Bolla, Missouri, U.S.A.*)

(Letter dated 28th November 1956)

I wish to support Dr. Herbert W. Levi's petition in regard to clarifying the nomenclature of *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*. Dr. Levi's proposals include :—

- (a) Suppression of the generic name *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, with *T. ovatum* as type species. *Theridion ovatum* (Clerck) has recently been discovered to belong to *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880, a well established genus in arachnid literature ;
- (b) Retention of the original spelling of *Theridion* Walckenaer.

(b) By **B. J. KASTON**

(*Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut, U.S.A.*)

(Letter dated 28th December 1956)

I have just received from Dr. Levi a copy of his proposal regarding the preservation of the generic names *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880. I wish to state that I endorse his recommendations whole-heartedly, and hope that the powers that be will see fit to act favorably upon them.

I wish also to state that I do not approve of the change in spelling from *Theridion* to *Theridium*, even though my good friend Dr. Bonnet of Toulouse suggests that it should be changed.

(c) By **VINCENT D. ROTH**

(*Yuma, Arizona, U.S.A.*)

(Letter dated 3rd January 1957)

I am in support of Dr. Herbert W. Levi's petition to preserve the current usage of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*. I agree entirely with his recommendations as given in his paper in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. In addition, I feel that the original spelling *Theridion* should be used in preference to the proposed emendation *Theridium* since the former has been utilized consistently to a greater extent in arachnology.

(d) By **ALLAN F. ARCHER**

(*Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, U.S.A.*)

(Letter dated 3rd January 1957)

As an arachnologist I want to indicate herewith my support of the petition to preserve the accustomed usage of the generic names *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880.

(e) By **CLARENCE J. GOODNIGHT**

(Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.)

(Letter dated 20th January 1957)

I would like to support Dr. Levi's proposal to preserve the accustomed usage of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*. I believe this would cause less confusion than to change them according to strict interpretations of the Law of Priority.

(f) By **T. H. SAVORY**

(London)

(Letter dated 21st January 1957)

This is to say that I support Dr. H. W. Levi's petition to preserve the current use of *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*.

(g) By **HANS TAMBS-LYCHE**

(Norway)

(Letter dated 22nd January 1957)

I fully support the application to designate *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831, as type species of the genus *Theridion*. There can, I think, be no doubt that the confusion arising from a normal application of the *Règles* would be a very serious one, and one that by no means ought to be avoided.

As to the suppression of Thorell's generic name *Phyllonethis*, I feel that it would be very inconvenient to change the name for a genus containing many species, but on the other hand it ought to be considered that the two cases do not conform. There will in the *Phyllonethis/Enoplognatha* case be no question of transfer of a well-known name from one genus to another. I therefore doubt if reasons are strong enough for the suspension of the normal application of the *Règles* in that case.

As to the *Theridion/Theridium* question, I support the usage of the original spelling *Theridion*, presuming that Dr. Levi is right in stating that the original spelling is to be considered valid under the Copenhagen Decisions.

(h) By **J. E. HULL**

(Durham, England)

(Letter dated 24th January 1957)

With regard to the application concerning the status of the names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*, I wish to inform you that I am entirely in agreement with all the proposals.

(i) By **HARALD NEMENZ**

(Vienna)

(Letter dated 25th January 1957)

I readily support Dr. Levi's petition to preserve the current usage of the generic name *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*. Further, I would prefer the spelling *Theridion* although *Theridium* may be more correct as the former is much more often used and appears also in the recent *Katalog* by Roewer, the most important compilation of the last years.

(j) By **J. BRANDEGÅRD***(Copenhagen)**(Letter dated 28th January 1957)*

I would appreciate the spelling *Theridion* because it is the most used spelling, and I support the petition to preserve the current usage of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha* proposed by Dr. Herbert Levi.

(k) By **WALTER HACKMAN***(Museum Zoologicum Universitatis, Helsinki)**(Letter dated 28th January 1957)*

Professor Herbert Levi has asked me my opinion regarding his petition for the use of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*.

I fully support his petition and I am of the opinion that the genus name *Theridion* should be used in the old wider sense and not for the *Enoplognatha* species, in spite of the fact that the type species for *Theridion* must be changed. I prefer the spelling *Theridion*. The generic name *Enoplognatha* should be preserved and *Theridion ovatum* and some allied species transferred to this genus.

(l) By **A. M. CHICKERING***(Albion College, Albion, Michigan, U.S.A.)**(Letter dated 28th January 1957)*

This communication is written in support of Dr. Herbert W. Levi's petition to preserve the current usage of the generic names *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880.

Moreover, it would seem to the writer that it would be better to retain the original spelling even though that is not etymologically as desirable as *Theridium*.

(m) By **G. H. LOCKET***(Harrow, Middlesex)*

and

**A. F. MILLIDGE***(Coulson, Surrey)**(Letter dated 1st February 1957)*

We support the petition to preserve the correct usage of the generic name *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha* as set out in the paper by Dr. H. W. Levi and we support the recommendations under paragraph 8 on p. 29 of this paper. We are opposed to the suggestion that the spelling *Theridion* be changed to *Theridium*.

**OBJECTION TO DR. H. W. LEVI'S PROPOSALS REGARDING THE  
NAME "THERIDION" WALCKENAER, 1805 (CLASS ARACHNIDA)**

By **OTTO KRAUS**

(Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a. Main)

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 1008)

(Extract from a letter dated 16th July 1956)

Stellungnahme zu dem vorgeschlagenen Verfahren :

(1) Der Name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, soll unter allen Umständen beibehalten, die Emendation *Theridium* Leach, 1824, soll unterdrückt werden.

(2) *Theridion* im alten Sinne ist eine sehr artenreiche Gattung (mehrere hundert Arten). Nachdem bereits frühere Autoren kleinere Gruppen von diesem Komplex generisch abgetrennt hatten, wurde vor allem durch Archer (1947, 1950) die Aufteilung weiter vorwärts getrieben, der weitere Gattungsnamen (z.B. *Allotheridion*, *Parasteatoda* und andere) einführte. Regelmässig ist hierbei der alte Name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (s. str.) auf diejenige Gruppe zu beziehen, bei der die genotypische Art (*Araneus redimitus* Clerck, 1757) verblieben ist. Archer ist auch durchaus korrekt in diesem Sinne verfahren (1950 : 23).

(3) Die Gattung *Theridion* Walckenaer im strengen Sinn enthält hierdurch nur noch wenige Arten. Dies ist jedoch nach unserer Ansicht kein Grund, dem Namen durch Veränderung des Genotypus einen anderen Sinn zu geben und ihn so für den bisherigen "*Theridion*"-Komplex zu erhalten, dessen Aufteilung im Gange ist. Wir erinnern in diesem Zusammenhang an ähnliche Verhältnisse bei Gattungsnamen wie *Helix* oder *Mus*.

(4) *Enoplognatha* Pavesi 1880a ist nach Archer (1950 : 23) jüngerer, subjektives Synonym von *Theridion* (s. str.). Wir halten den Namen *Enoplognatha* bei weitem nicht für so wichtig und bekannt, als dass zu seiner Erhaltung eine Suspension der Regeln gerechtfertigt wäre.

POSTSCRIPT (Dated 31st January 1957) :

Abschliessend kann ich Ihnen noch mitteilen, dass Herr Prof. Dr. C. Fr. Roewer (Bremen) mich ermächtigt, hier Ihnen mitzuteilen, dass er meine Objections Wort für Wort unterstützt. Prof. Roewer ist Ihnen sicher als einer der führenden Arachnologen bekannt.