Case 2821

*Rana megapoda* Taylor, 1942 (Amphibia, Anura): proposed conservation of the specific name

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the well known ranid *Rana megapoda* Taylor, 1942, which is a large frog found in south-central Mexico, by the suppression of the unrecognized senior subjective synonym *Rana trilobata* Mocquard, 1899.

1. Taylor (1942, p. 310) described *Rana megapoda*, a large frog confined to south-central Mexico. Without exception this frog has been referred to by the specific name *megapoda* which, however, is antedated by a previously unrecognized synonym. It would be most unfortunate to allow *R. megapoda* to be changed after its unchallenged use since the original description in 1942.

2. The previously unrecognized senior name is *R. trilobata* Mocquard, 1899 (p. 158). Hillis, Frost & Frost (1983, p. 73) recounted the history of the name *R. trilobata*, long referred to the *Rana pipiens* complex of leopard frogs (in which *trilobata* had been regarded as a subspecies of *Rana berlandieri* Baird, 1859), and reallocated *R. trilobata* to the synonymy of *Rana sinaloae* Zweifel, 1954 (p. 131); *Rana sinaloae* is a junior synonym of *Rana pustulosa* Boulenger, 1883 (p. 343), as I have reported (Webb, 1984, p. 237). I (Webb, 1991, p. 13) have examined the holotype of *R. trilobata* (specimen no. 97–189 in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) from Guadalajara, Mexico, and have demonstrated it to be a specimen of *R. megapoda* and thus incorrectly allocated to the synonymy of *R. sinaloae* (= *R. pustulosa*).

3. *Rana trilobata* Mocquard, 1899 has remained unused as a senior synonym of *R. megapoda* Taylor, 1942, the name having been associated with other species of ranid frogs. *Rana megapoda* is firmly entrenched in the primary zoological literature (see, for example, Hillis, Frost & Wright, 1983, p. 134 and Smith & Taylor, 1948, p. 100). A representative list of a further nine references demonstrating usage of the name is held by the Commission Secretariat. It is in the interest of nomenclatural stability to retain the name in its usage of the past 50 years.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

   (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *trilobata* Mocquard, 1899, as published in the binomen *Rana trilobata*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

   (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *megapoda* Taylor, 1942, as published in the binomen *Rana megapoda*;
(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology
the name trilobata Mocquard, 1899, as published in the binomen Rana trilobata,
and as suppressed in (1) above.

References

Boulenger, G.A. 1883. Descriptions of new species of lizards and frogs collected by Herr A.


Mocquard, M.F. 1899. Reptiles et batraciens recueillis au Mexique par M. Léon Diguet en 1896


Taylor, E.H. 1942. New Caudata and Salientia from Mexico. University of Kansas Science

Occidental, Mexico. Special Publication, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History,


Zweifel, R.G. 1954. A new frog of the genus Rana from western Mexico with a key to the Mexican