

instability as it would upset a long-accepted name in its accustomed meaning.

The nomenclatural problems outlined above are currently being presented to the Commission, asking to use its Plenary Power (a) to give the generic name *Halectinosoma* Vervoort, 1962 precedence over the generic name *Pararenosetella* Lang, 1944, whenever they are considered to be synonyms, and (b) to set aside all previous fixations of type species for *Halectinosoma* and to designate *Ectinosoma chrystalii* Scott, 1894a as the type species (Huys 2008a). Since prevailing usage of names is to be maintained until the ruling of the Commission is published (ICZN Art. 28.1), *Halectinosoma sarsii* is still listed as the type species in Table 4.

Heterolaophonte Lang, 1944 (Family Laophontidae)

In his revision of the Laophontidae, Nicholls (1941b: 98) divided the type genus *Laophonte* Philippi, 1840 into five subgenera: *Laophonte* Philippi, 1840 (type species *Laophonte cornuta* Philippi, 1840 by monotypy), *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b (type species *Laophonte littorale* Scott & Scott, 1893b by original designation; an incorrect original spelling of *littoralis*), *Metalaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b (type species *Laophonte depressa* Scott, 1894b by original designation), *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b (type species *Laophonte curvata* Douwe, 1929 by monotypy) and *Neolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b (type species *Laophonte trilobata* Willey, 1929 by original designation).

Lang (1944: 34) proposed the generic name *Heterolaophonte* but did not fix a type species. He divided the genus into seven species-groups and designated a 'Typus' for each: (1) *stroemii*-group (type *Cyclops stroemii* Baird, 1837), (2) *minuta*-group (type *Laophonte minuta* Boeck, 1873), (3) *littoralis*-group (type *L. littoralis* Scott & Scott, 1893b), (4) *quinquespinosa*-group (type *L. quinquespinosa* Sewell, 1924), (5) *discophora*-group (type *L. discophora* Willey, 1929), (6) *campbelliensis*-group (type *L. campbelliensis* Lang, 1934) and (7) *tenuispina*-group (type *L. tenuispina* Lang, 1934). Wells *et al.* (1982: 178) proposed a new genus *Quinquelaophonte* Wells, Hicks & Coull, 1982 (type by original designation *Laophonte quinquespinosa* Sewell, 1924) for the species of the *quinquespinosa*-group. Nowadays, the other groups are no longer recognized as taxonomically useful units (Wells 2007: 85).

Many of the names and nomenclatural acts proposed by Lang (1948) take precedence in the 1944 preamble to his monograph. Lang's (1944) paper was not widely disseminated (but nevertheless satisfied the criteria of publication) and most post-1948 authors have ignored it or were not aware of its existence (a notable exception is Vervoort (1964) who was unfairly criticised by Lang (1965: 547) for his allegedly "imperfect knowledge" of the literature!). Recent workers (Wells & Rao 1987; Huys & Willems 1989; Huys 1990a, 1992; Huys & Conroy-Dalton 1996; Bodin 1997; Seifried 2003; Wells 2007) have started crediting Lang (1944) with the authorship of the respective names and acts but it has remained unnoticed that some generic names, such as *Heterolaophonte* and *Paralaophonte* (see below), were not explicitly made available by that work. As pointed out by Vervoort (1964: 333), Lang (1948: 1368) formally designated *Cyclops stroemii* Baird, 1837 as the type species of *Heterolaophonte* and hence the authorship and date of the generic name *Heterolaophonte* should be attributed to Lang (1948). Vervoort and Holthuis (1983: 56) subsequently pointed out that Norman (1903a: 368) had already designated *C. stroemii* as the type species of *Dactylopusia* Norman, 1903a (family Dactylopusiidae) (a new replacement name for *Dactylopus* Claus, 1863 *non* Gill, 1859). Since Norman (1903a), when designating *C. stroemii* as the type species of *Dactylopusia*, had intended the dactylopusiid species identified by Claus (1863: 126, plate XVI, Figs 1–6) as such and not the real *C. stroemii*, Vervoort and Holthuis (1983) asked the Commission to use its plenary power to set aside all previous type fixations made for *Dactylopusia* Claus, 1863 and to designate *Dactylopus tisboides* Claus, 1863 as type species. The Commission voted in favour of Vervoort and Holthuis's (1983) application and, as a result, the generic name *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 and the specific name of its type species, *Cyclops stroemii* Baird, 1837, were placed on the Official Lists of Generic and Specific Names in Zoology, respectively (Melville 1985).

Since Lang (1948) assigned both *Laophonte littoralis* Scott & Scott, 1893b (spelled incorrectly by Scott

and Scott (1893b: 238) as *littorale*) (type of *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b) and *Laophonte curvata* Douwe, 1929 (type of *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b) to the genus *Heterolaophonte*, the generic names *Mesolaophonte* and *Monolaophonte* are currently senior subjective synonyms of *Heterolaophonte*. Nicholls's (1941b) subgeneric division was based solely on the endopodal armature of the female third pair of swimming legs and his system has been criticised for its artificiality by Lang (1948: 1620) and Vervoort (1964: 314). Both authors abolished Nicholls's subgenera but they were not formally synonymised with or subsumed within existing genera in prevailing usage. Since *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b and *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b are perfectly legitimate and available names, they cannot be ignored. The subgeneric name *Mesolaophonte* has only been used twice as a valid name since Lang (1948). Krishnaswamy (1959: 29) assigned his new species *Laophonte pseudocolata* Krishnaswamy, 1959 (incorrect original spelling *pseudocolata*) to *Laophonte* (*Mesolaophonte*) and Raibaut (1962) suggested a similar subgeneric assignment for *Laophonte commensalis* Raibaut, 1962. The replacement of the well-known and universally accepted name *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 by one of its two underused senior subjective synonyms would result in many new combinations and undue confusion in the nomenclature and taxonomy of the Laophontidae in general, and of its most speciose genus in particular. Unfortunately, since the conditions of ICZN Art. 23.9.1 are not met (the senior synonyms have been used as valid names after 1899), reversal of precedence is only possible by a Commission's ruling (ICZN Art. 23.9.3). To promote stability an application (Huys 2008b) is currently being presented to the Commission, asking to use its Plenary Power to give the generic name *Heterolaophonte* Lang, 1948 precedence over the names *Mesolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b and *Monolaophonte* Nicholls, 1941b, whenever it and either of the other two are considered to be synonyms. If in the light of future revisions, *Heterolaophonte* is found not to be congeneric with *Mesolaophonte* and/or *Monolaophonte* both senior genus-group names are still available to denote the two taxa as originally proposed by Nicholls (1941b).

Idyellopsis Lang, 1944 (Family Idyanthidae)

Lang (1944: 11) proposed the generic name *Idyellopsis* Lang, 1944 and fixed *Idyellopsis typica* Lang, 1944 as the type without describing or figuring it until 1948. According to ICZN Art. 13.4, the combined description or definition of a new nominal genus and a single included new nominal species, if marked by "gen. nov., sp. nov." or an equivalent expression, is deemed to confer availability on each name. However, no such expression is apparent from Lang's (1944) diagnosis (the genus is marked by "Gen. *Idyellopsis*, nov." while the species is not mentioned until the end of the generic diagnosis as "Typus *I. typica* n. sp."). Since the name *I. typica* is not accompanied by a description or definition that states in words characters that are purported to differentiate the species (ICZN Art. 13.1.1), or by a bibliographic reference to such a published statement (ICZN Art. 13.1.2), the name of the type species is effectively unavailable. Consequently, the generic name *Idyellopsis* Lang, 1944 also becomes unavailable since it does not meet the provisions of ICZN Art. 13.3 for genus-group names published after 1930 (type fixation is mandatory). The first author to make *Idyellopsis* available was Lang (1948: 413) who provided a differential diagnosis for the genus and its type species (by indication), *Idyellopsis typica*; hence the date and authorship of both should rest with Lang (1948). The genus has remained monotypic since.

Paralaophonte Lang, 1944 (Family Laophontidae)

The genus-group name *Paralaophonte* was first published by Lang (1944: 36) but without any valid type fixation. Lang (1944) divided the genus in four species-groups and designated a 'type species' for three of them: (1) *brevirostris*-group (no type designated), (2) *perplexa*-group (type: *Laophonte perplexa* T. Scott, 1899a), (3) *gracilipes*-group (type: *Laophonte gracilipes* Brady, 1910), and (4) *karmensis*-group (type: *Laophonte karmensis* Sars, 1911c). Vervoort (1964: 334) pointed out that *Paralaophonte* Lang, 1944 is an