

Taxonomic correction

***Bonamia exitiosa* Hine et al., 2001 is proposed instead of *B. exitiosus* as the valid name of *Bonamia* sp. infecting flat oysters *Ostrea chilensis* in New Zealand**

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ABSTRACT: A parasite of the dredge oyster *Ostrea chilensis* Philippi, previously known as *Bonamia* sp., was recently described and named *Bonamia exitiosus*, based on ultrastructural and molecular evidence. The rules governing the names of organisms require correspondence of gender, and the name must be changed from *B. exitiosus* to *B. exitiosa*.

KEY WORDS: *Bonamia exitiosa* · Zoological nomenclature

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As a science, biology must name the objects of its study, and this is achieved by Codes of Nomenclature (Hawksworth 1995). The rules governing the names of animals are stated in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, ICZN (Ride et al. 1985), which has its origins in the mid-19th century.

Bonamia sp. is a pathogenic parasite in the haemocytes of dredge oysters *Ostrea chilensis* Philippi in New Zealand (Dinamani et al. 1987). Ultrastructurally, it resembles other haplosporidians and most closely resembles *B. ostreae*, a similar parasite of European flat oysters *O. edulis* (Pichot et al. 1979). However, significant ultrastructural and molecular differences exist between *Bonamia* sp. and *B. ostreae*. As it is a principle that each taxon should have a unique name, it was proposed to name this organism *Bonamia exitiosus* sp. nov. (Hine et al. 2001).

This denomination follows the present requirement that scientific names be in Latin or deemed to be in Latin. Although the abolishment of the gender of generic names is being discussed among zoologists, rules are still in effect with regard to the appropriate form, spelling and declination of epithets and word elements used in the naming of species. When the grammatical gender of a genus name is not specified, it should be considered by default as masculine, unless it ends with -a, when it is feminine (Article 30.2.4 of the ICZN: Ride et al. 1985). The genus name *Bonamia* was given in honour of Dr. Jean Robert Bonami (CNRS,

Montpellier, France) and according to the rules on compounding and formation of names, it is feminine. Therefore, following Articles 31.2 (appropriate termination to be used with grammatical gender) and 34.2 (epithets), *B. exitiosus* must be corrected to *B. exitiosa* as the valid name of *Bonamia* sp., a parasite of dredge oysters *Ostrea chilensis* in New Zealand. In application of Article 50.3.2 of the ICZN, authorship and date of species name remain unchanged.

We apologise for this change to those already accustomed to the former name. The development of electronic information retrieval necessitates correction of the misnaming of *Bonamia exitiosa*. We suggest the establishment of a registration procedure to prevent non-valid species names and incorrect usage of gender or non-standard spellings.

Acknowledgements. We thank Dr. B. Métivier (LBIMM, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) and Dr. J. F. Bernardet (VIM, INRA, Jouy en Josas) for their advice.

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Editorial responsibility: Albert Sparks, Seattle, Washington, USA

Submitted: May 16, 2003; *Accepted:* July 25, 2003
Proofs received from author(s): September 22, 2003

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