

1968

Reprinted from: CRUSTACEANA. Vol. 14 Part 2 1968. — Leiden, E. J. Brill

INVERTEBRATE  
ZOOLOGY  
Crustacea

LIBRARY  
SECTION OF CRUSTACEA

CARDED

POLYBIINAE, THE CORRECT NAME FOR THE SUBFAMILY  
CONTAINING THE GENUS *MACROPIPUS* PRESTANDREA, 1833  
(DECAPODA BRACHYURA, PORTUNIDAE)

BY

L. B. HOLTHUIS

Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands

In 1956 the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in its Opinion 394 decided that the type species of the genus *Portunus* Weber, 1795, is *Cancer pelagicus* Linnaeus, 1758 (see 1956, Opin. Decl. Int. Comm. Zool. Nomencl., **12** (17): 317), at the same time indicating that the generic name *Macropipus* Prestandrea, 1833 should be employed for the genus which has *Portunus macropipus* Prestandrea, 1833 (= *Portunus tuberculatus* P. Roux, 1830) as its type.

In many European handbooks the two genera *Portunus* and *Macropipus* were indicated respectively with the names *Neptunus* De Haan, 1833 (or *Lupa* Leach, 1814) and *Portunus* Fabricius, 1798. Since these genera as a rule are assigned to two different subfamilies, these subfamilies were usually indicated as Neptuniinae (or Lupinae) and Portuniinae respectively.

It is clear from the above decision by the International Commission that the subfamily name Portuniinae Rafinesque, 1815 (Analyse de la Nature: 97 as Portuniidia) has to be employed for the nominate subfamily, viz., the one containing the genus *Portunus* Weber, 1795. The names Lupinae Dana, 1851 (Amer. Journ. Sci., (2) **12**: 129) and Neptuniinae Balss, 1957 (Bronn's Klass. Ordn. Tierr., (ed. 2) **5** (1) (7) (12): 1640) have to disappear as they are junior synonyms, and moreover are based on generic names (*Lupa* Leach, 1814 and *Neptunus* De Haan, 1833), which, because they are junior objective synonyms of *Portunus* Weber, 1795, are placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

As to the correct name of the other subfamily some confusion exists and even as late as 1960 a new name (*Macropipinae*) was proposed for it. However, several older names for this taxon are available. As far as I can find, its synonymy is as follows:

- Polybiens* A. Milne Edwards, 1861, Arch. Mus. Hist. nat. Paris, **10**: 408.  
*Polybiidae* Ortmann, 1893, Zool. Jb. Syst., **7**: 66. Type genus: *Polybius* Leach, 1820.  
*Liocarcininae* Rathbun, 1910, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., **38**: 577. Type genus: *Liocarcinus* Stimpson, 1870 (a subjective junior synonym of *Macropipus* Prestandrea, 1833).  
*Macropipinae* Stephenson & Campbell, 1960, Austr. Journ. mar. Freshw. Res., **11**: 88. Type genus: *Macropipus* Prestandrea, 1833.

It is possible that other names have been overlooked by me as they sometimes are published in unlikely or obscure places. From the above evidence, however, *Polybiinae* Ortmann, 1893, is the oldest available name for the subfamily; A. Milne Edwards's *Polybiens* is not acceptable as it is a vernacular name. Authors who exclude the genus *Polybius* from this subfamily should use the name *Liocarcininae* Rathbun, 1910, for it. The generic name *Liocarcinus* Stimpson, 1870, it is true, is a junior subjective synonym of *Macropipus* Prestandrea, 1833, but under the present Code (Article 40) this does not invalidate the family group name.

The third subfamily of *Portunidae* occurring in European waters is that of the *Carcininae* M'Leay, 1838 (Smith's Illustr. Annulosa S. Africa: 59, 62), type genus: *Carcinus* Leach, 1814, which has as junior synonyms: *Portumninae* Ortmann, 1899 (Bronn's Klassen Ordn. Thierr., (ed. 1) **5** (2) (53): 1170), type genus *Portumnus* Leach, 1814, and *Carcinidinae* Rathbun, 1930 (Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., **152**: 14), type genus: *Carcinides* Rathbun, 1897.

Received for publication 21 July 1967.