

## TAXONOMIC NOTE

### THE STATUS OF *BELLINUROOPSIS* CHERNYSHEV, 1933, AND *NEOBELINUROOPSIS* ELLER, 1938 (XIPHOSURA, BELLINUROIDEA)

PAUL A. SELDEN AND DEREK J. SIVETER

Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom and  
Department of Geology, University, Hull HU6 7RX, United Kingdom

IN 1909, Matthew established *Belinuropsis*, a monotypic xiphosuran genus based on his new species *Belinuropsis wigudensis* from the Silurian of New Brunswick, Canada. Chernyshev (1933) later erected *Bellinuroopsis*, a different monotypic xiphosuran genus based on his new species *Bellinuroopsis rossicus* from the late Devonian of the U.S.S.R. Eller (1938a) claimed that *Bellinuroopsis* Chernyshev, 1933, was effectively a junior homonym of *Belinuropsis* Matthew, 1909, and introduced *Neobelinuroopsis* nom. nov. for the Russian genus. Subsequently, the name *Neobelinuroopsis* has been used by all workers referring to the Russian genus; for example, Eller (1938b), Størmer (1952, 1955), Eldredge (1974), Bergström (1975), Fisher (1982, 1984), Waterston (1985), and Siveter and Selden (1987). Such usage was incorrect, as avoidance of homonymy is achieved if there is a difference of only one letter in the names of two genera (International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, article 56(b)), and two letters distinguish *Belinuropsis* from *Bellinuroopsis*. Thus *Neobelinuroopsis* Eller, 1938, is a junior objective synonym of *Bellinuroopsis* Chernyshev, 1933, and an invalid name. Chernyshev's original, valid name and authorship should be restored and used by future workers.

#### REFERENCES

- BERGSTRÖM, J. 1975. Functional morphology and evolution of xiphosurids. *Fossils and Strata*, 4: 291–305.
- CHERNYSHEV, V. I. 1933. Arthropoda с Урала и других мест С.С.С.Р. (Arthropods from the Urals and other regions of the U.S.S.R.) Центрального Научно-Исследовательского Геологоразведочного Института. Палеонтология и Стратиграфия Сборникв (Materials of the Central Scientific Geological and Prospecting Institute. Paleontology and Stratigraphy. Leningrad), 1:15–24.
- ELDRIDGE, N. 1974. Revision of the suborder Synziphosurina (Chelicerata, Merostomata), with remarks on merostome phylogeny. *American Museum Novitates*, 2543:1–41.
- ELLER, E. R. 1938a. A review of the xiphosuran genus *Belinurus* with the description of a new species, *B. alleganyensis*. *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*, 27:129–150.
- . 1938b. A new xiphosuran, *Euproops morani*, from the Upper Devonian of Pennsylvania. *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*, 27:151–155.
- FISHER, D. C. 1982. Phylogenetic and macroevolutionary patterns within the Xiphosurida. *Proceedings of the North American Paleontological Convention*, 1:175–180.
- . 1984. The Xiphosurida: archetypes of bradytely?, p. 196–212. *In* N. Eldredge and S. M. Stanley (eds.), *Living Fossils*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 291 p.
- INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE. 1985. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, 3rd ed. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, 338 p.
- MATTHEW, G. F. 1909. Remarkable forms of the Little River Group. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, ser. 3, 3(4):115–125.
- STØRMER, L. 1952. Phylogeny and taxonomy of fossil horseshoe crabs. *Journal of Paleontology*, 26:630–640.
- . 1955. Merostomata, p. P4–P41. *In* R. C. Moore (ed.), *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*, Pt. P, Arthropoda 2. Geological Society of America and University of Kansas Press, Lawrence.
- SIVETER, D. J., AND P. A. SELDEN. 1987. A new, giant xiphosurid from the lower Namurian of Weardale, County Durham. *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society*, 46:153–168.
- WATERSTON, C. D. 1985. Chelicerata from the Dinantian of Foulden, Berwickshire, Scotland. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Earth Sciences*, 76:25–33.

MANUSCRIPT RECEIVED 26 MARCH 1987