

LUCIFER OR LEUCIFER: WHICH SPELLING IS CORRECT?

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Two spellings, *Lucifer* and *Leucifer* are now used for the common planktonic shrimp genus of the family Sergestidae. In this note we present evidence that the older name *Lucifer*, is the valid one, and not as some zoologists maintain, invalid because it is a junior synonym.

The name *Lucifer* was proposed in 1830 for the shrimp genus by Thompson. No species were assigned to the genus by Thompson, but at that time citation of included species was not required for validation of a proposed genus. Thus *Lucifer* Thompson would be rendered invalid only by the discovery of a prior use of the name. Two instances of prior use are cited by those who support the use of *Leucifer* H. Milne Edwards (1837) in preference to *Lucifer* Thompson (1830). It is claimed that the latter name is preoccupied by *Lucifer* Hoppius (Hominidae) and also by *Lucifer* Lesson (Trochilidae). *Lucifer* Hoppius is one of 4 man-like creatures described and illustrated in volume 6 (1763) of Linnaeus' "Amoenitates Academicae", a collection of theses by students of Linnaeus. The illustration portrays a bearded lady with hairy legs and a tail. In an entertaining essay, Fell (1946) shows that Hoppius' illustration can be traced back to a figure of "Ceropithecus" in a 1551 work, "De Quadrupedibus", by Conrad Gesner, who in turn stated that the picture was taken from "some German book of a description of the sacred earth".

In his text, Hoppius used the name *Lucifer* in a vernacular sense, as follows (p. 70):

"III. LUCIFER.

HOMO caudatus vulgo dictus. Syst. nat. 10, p. 24".

The reference is clearly to *Homo caudatus* in Linnaeus' Systema Naturae. Although Hoppius' use of *Lucifer* is vernacular, some authors, including Fell, mistook the legend "Lucifer Aldrovandi", under Hoppius' illustration of the lady in question for a binomen. But as Fell points out, the legend is meant to indicate that the illustration is derived from one given in 1645 by Aldrovandus. (To Thomas Huxley (1863) belongs the credit for tracing Hoppius' figure back to that of Aldrovandus). Thus in the legend "Lucifer Aldrovandi" Hoppius was not using "Aldrovandi" as a specific name. Linnaeus never used patronymics for specific names and it is unlikely that one of his students would do so in a thesis.

The second instance in which a use of *Lucifer* is claimed to antedate *Lucifer* Thompson is that of Lesson (1832) for a genus of hummingbirds (Trochilidae). Although Agassiz (1842) gives 1829 as the date of Lesson's work, it was actually published in 1832, making *Lucifer* Lesson younger than *Lucifer* Thompson. Furthermore, *Lucifer* Lesson is not available, since it was used as a vernacular name, "XVe Race - Les Lucifers" (Lesson, 1832: xxiii).

Since the two uses of *Lucifer* claimed to be prior to that of Thompson are vernacular and therefore unavailable, claims such as that by Balss (1957) that *Lucifer* Thompson is a "nom. praeocc." cannot be supported. The valid name for the sergestid shrimp genus is *Lucifer* Thompson; *Leucifer* H. Milne Edwards is an invalid junior synonym.

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PHRONIMID LARVAE (AMPHIPODA) ATTACKING *ACANTHEPHYRA*
EMBRYOS (DECAPODA)

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In May, 1967 I received for determination, from Mr. Peter Herring of the