

REPLY

**Reply to Montoya and Lourenço: on the scorpion name  
*Chactas bonito* Lourenço, 1996: 177 (nomen nudum)**

The name bonito as used by Lourenço (1996), is not available as prescribed by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), Articles ii and 13. Nor is the name a lapsus calami- (as proposed by Montoya: A case of lapsus calami in Costa Rican scorpion nomenclature, Rev. Biol. Trop. 44-3/45-1, 1997, and commented by Lourenço in that same issue) since that definition requires an inadvertant error, a slip of the pen, on the part of the author. By his own admission (Reply to Montoya about the use of the name *Chactas bonito*, Rev. Biol. Trop. 44-3/45-1, 1997), Lourenço clearly intended to use the name *Chactas bonito*. It appears at least ten times in the article, with no other name used to refer to the taxon in question. Had he used the name *Chactas exsul* at one instance and then *Chactas bonito* at another, we might then suspect a lapsus calami. As explained by Lourenço himself, he used a manuscript name (*Chactas bonito*) that he assumed to have been made available. The name was never published. Authorship clearly cannot be attributed to Francke and Stockwell (1987). Lourenço's use of *Chactas bonito* thus enters the literature as a sort of provisional name, not being proposed as new, and thus not meeting the requirements for availability under Article 11. Furthermore, Article 15 of the ICZN states that "a scientific name or nomenclatural act proposed

conditionally after 1960 is not thereby made available." Therefore, *Chactas bonito* must be considered a nomen nudum attributable to Lourenço (1996).

This does not mean that the name cannot be made available. *Chactas bonito* is not to be considered a synonym of *Chactas exsul*. *Chactas bonito* can be proposed as a new replacement name for this or any other taxon, accompanied by a description, and thus be made available. In this particular case, however, one would have to present compelling evidence that the specific name *exsul* Werner, 1939, as currently applied in the binomen *Chactas exsul* by Francke and Stockwell (1987), is not applicable to this taxon, or that retention of this name in its current use, and the neotype designated for it, represent some threat to long-term stability.

REFERENCES

- Francke, O. F. and S. A. Stockwel. 1987. Scorpions (Arachnida) from Costa Rica. Spec. Publ. Mus. Texas Tech Univ. 25, 64 p.
- Lourenço, W. R. 1996. Additions to the scorpion fauna of Panama and Costa Rica. Rev. Biol. Trop. 44: 177-181.
- Werner, F. 1939. Neu-Eingänge von Skorpionen im Zoologischen Museum in Hamburg. Teil II. Fetsch. Prof. Embrik Strand, Riga, 5: 351-360.

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