

Case 3731 – *Charissa* Curtis, 1826 (Lepidoptera: Geometridae): proposed conservation by reversal of precedence with *Hyposcotis* Hübner, [1825]

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the widespread usage of the generic name *Charissa* Curtis, 1826 by suppression of its senior subjective synonym *Hyposcotis* Hübner, [1825] for promotion of stability and universality of zoological nomenclature.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Lepidoptera; Geometridae; Ennominae; *Charissa*; *Hyposcotis*; priority.

1. In his bibliographical account of the entomological works of Jacob Hübner, Hemming (1937) concluded that the pages 305–431 of Hübner’s ‘Verzeichniss bekannter Schmettlinge [sic]’ including the generic name *Hyposcotis* most likely appeared in 1825. On this basis, he initiated the process that resulted in Opinion 150 which was intended to stabilise nomenclature (ICZN, 1943). The type species of *Hyposcotis* (Hübner, [1825]: 314) is *Geometra mucidaria* Hübner, [1799] by subsequent designation by Prout (1904: 122).

2. When Sauter (1990: 336) proposed the genus name *Charissa* Curtis, 1826 for several subgenera and species (including *Charissa mucidaria*) formerly belonging to *Gnophos* Treitschke, 1825, he obviously overlooked that *Hyposcotis* Hübner, [1825] should have been used. Since their type species are currently treated as congeneric (Parsons et al., 1999), *Charissa* and *Hyposcotis* must be considered to be synonyms. The type species of *Charissa* is *Geometra obscurata* [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775 by original designation by Curtis (1826: no. 105) as “*Geometra obscuraria* Hüb.” (an unjustified emendation).

3. For *Hyposcotis*, to our knowledge, there are only four sources in which the genus name was used contrary to Article 23.9.1.1. of the Code after 1899 (Prout, 1904: 122; 1912–1916: 63; 1914: 266; Oberthür, 1913: 297). Apart from the general list (not being relevant according to Article 23.9.6. of the Code) in Fletcher (1979: 106), almost 100 years have passed without *Hyposcotis* being used as a valid genus name. On the other hand, many authors have increasingly used *Charissa* in their publications and databases immediately since Sauter (1990), and now the name is widely adopted, as exemplified by the following 30 articles: Hausmann (1991: 142–143); Patočka (1995: 15); Schmid (1995: 141); Fajčík & Slamka (1996: 76); Viidalepp (1996: 81); Joseph (1998: 303); Hacker (1999: 444); Varga & Varga-Sipos (2001: 74); Vallhonrat (2004: 31); Leverton (2005: 229); Knölke et al. (2005:

404); Viidalepp et al. (2007: 307); Mironov et al. (2008: 198); Okyar & Mironov (2008: 8); Huemer et al. (2009: 156–158); Leraut (2009: 222–227); Redondo et al. (2009: 97); Skinner (2009: 85); Müller (2010: 162); Segerer et al. (2011: 199); Sihvonen et al. (2011: 8); Malkiewicz (2012: 125–131); Garre et al. (2013: 22); Newland (2013: 121); Steiner et al. (2014: 325–327); King & González-Estébanez (2015: 627); Manley (2015: 256); Beljaev (2016: 540); Flamigni et al. (2016: 279–331); Waring & Townsend (2017: 168). Nevertheless, *Hyposcotis* instead of *Charissa* was recently used in the faunistic checklists of two Turkish colleagues (e.g., Kemal & Koçak 2015: 44; 2016: 77, 81–82). To avoid taxonomic instability and confusion amongst the scientific community we decided to refer this matter to the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature.

4. Referring to Article 23.9.3 of the Code we propose to conserve the widely used generic name *Charissa* Curtis, 1826 by suppression of its senior subjective synonym *Hyposcotis* Hübner, [1825]. This nomenclatural problem cannot be resolved under the provisions of the Code because the condition of Article 23.9.1.1. (“the senior synonym or homonym has not been used as a valid name after 1899”) does not apply. The result of the present application will be of major importance for several impending monographs on different subgenera of *Charissa* by the authors as well as for volume 6 of ‘The Geometrid Moths of Europe’ edited by Axel Hausmann.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the genus name *Charissa* Curtis, 1826 (gender: feminine), type species *Geometra obscurata* [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775 by original designation, precedence over the name *Hyposcotis* Hübner, [1825] whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place the name *Charissa* Curtis, 1826 (gender: feminine), type species *Geometra obscurata* [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775 by original designation, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *Hyposcotis* Hübner, [1825], whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place the name *Hyposcotis* Hübner, [1825] (gender: feminine), type species *Geometra mucidaria* Hübner, [1799] by subsequent designation by Prout (1904), on the Official Index of Generic Names in Zoology, with the endorsement that it is not to be given precedence over the name *Charissa* Curtis, 1826, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

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