

Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific names of *Strombidium gyrans* Stokes, 1887 (currently *Strobilidium gyrans*) and *Strobilidium caudatum* Kahl, 1932 (Ciliophora, Oligotrichida)
(Case 3011; see BZN 55: 6–8, 233–235; 56: 48–49)

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The reply by Heckman (BZN 56: 48–49) to the two comments by Corliss and myself (BZN 55: 233–236) adds little to the matter addressed in Case 3011 but is, in part, incorrect and unnecessarily polemic. Specifically, I want to address the following points:

1. If students have problems with the changing names of organisms, then their teachers should explain that taxonomy and nomenclature are not static but living disciplines. Heckman's discussion is too general and, for instance, does not take into account that students of biology have to change from the vernacular names, with which they are familiar, to binominal nomenclature.

2. When Petz & Foissner (1992) established the replacement name *Strobilidium kahli*, it was not known that the species belonged to *Rimostrombidium*, as recently shown by Agatha & Riedel-Lorje (1998); the action by Petz and myself was in accordance with the state of knowledge at the time and with the Code. Such changes, which result from progress in taxonomy, are common in nomenclature.

3. The original descriptions of *Strombidion caudatum* Fromentel, 1876 and *Strombidium gyrans* Stokes, 1887 are of a similar detail and quality, while the description of *Trichoda cometa* Müller, 1773 is, understandably, much more incomplete and hardly assignable. Accordingly, Kahl's preference for Stokes's junior synonym was a mistake. This is why I emphasised in my first comment (BZN 55: 233) that Heckman's proposal relates mainly to a taxonomic and not a nomenclatural problem. It may happen that further research shows that the European and American '*Strobilidium caudatum*' belong to different species. In that case, Stokes's name would need to be resurrected. Heckman appears not to accept that subjective synonymy is never definitive and that a comprehensive description of the American *Strombidium gyrans* has not yet been undertaken.

4. Heckman is incorrect in stating that our four-volume monograph on the ciliates used as bioindicators is 'grey literature'. Each of these volumes, published in the series *Informationsberichte des Bayerisches Landesamtes für Wasserwirtschaft*, has an ISSN number (0176-4217), is indexed in *Zoological Record*, is obtainable by purchase, and was printed in 1200 copies, most of which have already been sold and are used by workers worldwide.

5. I fully agree with Corliss's comment (BZN 55: 233–236) and emphasise that, if priority and taxonomy were to be restricted in the way proposed by Heckman, a chaotic situation would result in protist nomenclature and taxonomy, which are still poorly explored. Only by a strict application of the Code can some stability be reached eventually.