



Nomenclatural issues in *Rhagovelia* Mayr (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerromorpha: Veliidae)

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Nieser & Polhemus (1999) described four species of *Rhagovelia* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerromorpha: Veliidae) from the state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil: *Rhagovelia ochroischion*, *R. sbolos*, *R. trianguloides*, and *R. turmalis*. Nevertheless, these same nomina were used in an identification key by Nieser & Melo (1997).

Moreira and colleagues (2010) interpreted that the publication of these nomina in an identification key in 1997 gave priority to this latter work, because the third edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1985), then in force, did not require the designation of type specimens or repository institutions to validate a nomen. Before the fourth edition of the ‘Code’ (ICZN 1999), there was also no need to explicitly indicate the intention of describing a taxon as new to validate it; mentioning of a single character purported by the species that allowed it to be differentiated would be enough to make the nomen available. Despite recognizing that nomina presented in the publication of 1997 (Nieser & Melo 1997) had priority over Nieser & Polhemus (1999), Moreira *et al.* (2010) considered that authorship should be given to the latter authors, because in the contents (“list of the names of the studied species and their authors”) of Nieser & Melo’s (1997) work, the authorship of all four species is given to Nieser & Polhemus, 1998. Thus, according to Moreira *et al.* (2010), the authorship of the species should be corrected to Nieser & Polhemus, 1997.

This interpretation, however, is not supported by the current ‘Code’. The authorship of any nomen belongs to the person(s) who first published it (Art. 50.1.1 of the ‘Code’). Unless there is any evidence contained in Nieser & Melo (1997) to say that Nieser & Polhemus wrote the key, it is not clear that they alone are responsible for satisfying the criteria of availability, so they would not be the authors of the nomina (Art. 50.1.1 of the ‘Code’). The fact that the nomina are attributed to Nieser & Polhemus, 1998, does not indicate Nieser & Polhemus are responsible for the description in Nieser & Melo (1997); rather, it refers to a paper as yet unpublished.

In fact, N. Nieser, as author of both works, was obviously aware of the submission of Nieser & Polhemus’s (1999) work. According to him (pers. comm. to ALM), he expected the book by Nieser & Melo (1997) would be delayed in publication, and the paper by Nieser & Polhemus (1999) would be published in advance (the reason the date of the four species was attributed, in Nieser & Melo’s (1997) “contents”, as “1998”). The contrary happened, and the nomina were published first in Nieser & Melo (1997). Nevertheless, the authorship of the key published in Nieser & Melo (1997) should be attributed to these authors, not to Nieser & Polhemus, thus making Nieser & Melo (1997) authors of the four species.

Thus, *Rhagovelia ochroischion* Nieser & Melo, 1997, *R. sbolos* Nieser & Melo, 1997, *R. trianguloides* Nieser & Melo, 1997, and *R. turmalis* Nieser & Melo, 1997 are different nomina from *Rhagovelia ochroischion* Nieser & Polhemus, 1999, *R. sbolos* Nieser & Polhemus, 1999, *R. trianguloides* Nieser & Polhemus, 1999, and *R. turmalis* Nieser & Polhemus, 1999, with different type specimens, different descriptions, and different authorships and dates. The nomenclatural situation, then, becomes:

Rhagovelia ochroischion Nieser & Melo, 1997—available

Rhagovelia ochroischion Nieser & Polhemus, 1999—available, but permanently invalid
as a junior primary homonym of *Rhagovelia ochroischion* Nieser & Melo, 1997

Rhagovelia sbolos Nieser & Melo, 1997—available

Rhagovelia sbolos Nieser & Polhemus, 1999—available, but permanently invalid as a
junior primary homonym of *Rhagovelia sbolos* Nieser & Melo, 1997