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The Proper Name for the Type-Species of
the Genus *Leptodactylus*

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THE PROPER NAME FOR THE TYPE-SPECIES OF THE GENUS *LEPTODACTYLUS*.—Fitzinger proposed the genus *Leptodactylus* in 1826 (p. 38), based on three species (p. 64): *Rana typhonia* Daudin, *Rana sibilatrix* Wied, and *Rana mystacea* Spix.

Later (1843:31), he designated the *Rana typhonia* of Daudin (1803) as the type-species of the genus *Leptodactylus*. L. Müller (1927) pointed out that *Rana typhonia* Daudin was a primary homonym of *Rana typhonia* Linnaeus, 1758 (= *Bufo typhonius*). Actually, Sonnini and Latreille described *Rana typhonia* in 1802 (pp. 159-160, figs. 2 and 3 on p. 150), the year before Daudin described the same species using the same name. Nevertheless, Müller's point is valid concerning the availability of *Rana typhonia* (non-Linnaeus). Müller (1927) stated that the next available name for the species in question was *Rana sibilatrix* Wied, 1824 (see Wied, 1824a, b, 1825), and incorrectly emended the name to *sibilator* to agree with the masculine *Leptodactylus*. Parker (1935) returned the name to *sibilatrix*, following the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature which calls for agreement in gender (Article 30, 1964 ed.) only if the species-group name is an adjective in the nominative singular (*sibilatrix* is a substantive). *Leptodactylus sibilatrix* (Wied) is the name currently used for the type species of the genus *Leptodactylus*. Investigation of the literature reveals an older, valid name for the species now called *Leptodactylus sibilatrix*.

Daudin (1803:55-56) listed the following names in the synonymy of his *R. typhonia*: *Rana marginata* Linnaeus; *Rana Virginiana* Seba; *Rana Virginica* Laurenti; *Rana fusca* Schneider. The type of *R. marginata* Linnaeus is a *Bufo* according to Andersson (1900:18). *R. virginica* Laurenti, based on Seba's plate 75, fig. 4 (1734, vol. 1), is *Rana pipiens*. Schneider's description of *Rana fusca* (1799) could certainly apply to the species in question. The vestigial webbing between the toes and the color pattern consisting of light longitudinal stripes are characteristic of the type-species of the genus *Leptodactylus*. Nevertheless, Schneider's description is understandably inadequate and could be equally well applied to other species in the family Leptodactylidae. The treatment of *R. fusca* Schneider by subsequent workers further clarifies the situation.

Duméril and Bibron (1841) redescribed Daudin's specimens under the genus *Cystignathus*. In their description (p. 402), *Cystignathus typhonius* is followed by *nobis*, thereby establishing *typhonius* as an available name for the type-species of the genus

Leptodactylus. Duméril and Bibron 1) did not list *Rana marginata* Linnaeus in the synonymy of *Cystignathus typhonius* (p. 402); 2) exposed *Rana virginica* Laurenti as a member of the genus *Rana* as now understood (p. 404); 3) placed *Rana sibilatrix* Wied in the synonymy of *Cystignathus ocellatus* (p. 396); and 4) clearly stated that *R. fusca* Schneider is representative of the same species as their *C. typhonius* (p. 404). Günther (1858:28) recognized that *R. fusca* Schneider was the oldest available name for the species involved (invoking the rule of priority, established in 1842 in the "Stricklandian Code"), and listed *Rana typhonia* Daudin and *Cystignathus typhonius* Duméril and Bibron as synonyms of *Cystignathus fuscus* (Schneider).

Although Günther made a valid nomenclatural decision, he apparently committed a taxonomic lapsus, as the specimens he referred to as *Cystignathus fuscus* were actually *Leptodactylus pentadactylus*. Boulenger (1882:241-242), citing the same specimens Günther called *C. fuscus* as *L. pentadactylus*, listed *C. fuscus* in the synonymy of *L. pentadactylus*. Subsequently, workers following Boulenger have been unaware of the availability of the name *R. fusca* Schneider for the type-species of the genus *Leptodactylus*.

Bechstein (1793) placed *Bufo fuscus* of Linnaeus (1758) in the genus *Rana* as *Rana fusca* (pp. 115-116). Schneider (1799:196-200) uses *Bufo fuscus* for the form called *R. fusca* by Bechstein, hence *R. fusca* Schneider was never a secondary homonym of *R. fusca* Bechstein, and *R. fusca* Schneider was and is an available name.

The situation is then, that 1) *R. fusca* Schneider was regarded by Daudin as identical with his *R. typhonia*, 2) Duméril and Bibron concurred, and 3) Günther used the oldest name for the species involved. As Schneider's type material is no longer extant, the only data available concerning the identity of the species *R. fusca* are Schneider's description, the works of Daudin (1803), and Duméril and Bibron (1841). The evidence is quite conclusive, and in keeping with nomenclatural stability, I have requested the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to place *Rana fusca* Schneider on the Official List.

For the neotype of *R. fusca* Schneider, I designate specimen No. 680, Paris Museum, a male, 42 mm, which is one of the cotypes

of Daudin's *R. typhonia*, and Duméril and Bibron's *C. typhoni*. In order to avoid further confusion, I also designate the same specimen as the lectotype of *C. typhoni* Duméril and Bibron.

The corrected synonymy for the type-species of the genus *Leptodactylus* (using the literature cited above) is:

Leptodactylus fuscus (Schneider)

1799. *Rana fusca* Schneider.
 1802. *Rana typhonia* Sonnini and Latreille.
 1803. *Rana typhonia* Daudin.
 1824. *Rana sibilatrix* Wied.
 1826. *Leptodactylus typhoni*, Fitzinger.
 1841. *Cystignathus typhoni* Duméril and Bibron.
 1843. *Leptodactylus typhoni*, Fitzinger.
 1858. *Cystignathus fuscus*, Günther.
 1882. *Leptodactylus typhoni*, Boulenger.
 1927. *Leptodactylus sibilator*, Müller.
 1935. *Leptodactylus sibilatrix*, Parker.

The translations of the original descriptions of *R. fusca*, *R. typhonia*, and *C. typhoni* by William O'Day and Miriam Heyer were invaluable. I also thank Jay M. Savage for advice and help in utilizing and understanding the literature and nomenclature, and M. J. Rowlands for providing a photocopy of Bechstein's description of *R. fusca* from the copy in the British Museum (Natural History).

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