old and forgotten name which had been dug out, but this is not the case and we therefore oppose the application.

Acknowledgement
We thank our colleague Jason Dunlop (Berlin) for linguistic corrections of the English text.

Additional references

Comment on the conservation of usage of the specific names of Sceoptodrosophila rufifrons (Loew, 1873) and S. lebanonensis (Wheeler, 1949) by the designation of a neotype for S. rufifrons (Insecta, Diptera)
(Case 3128; see BZN 56: 179–181)

V. Sidorenko
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The history and taxonomy of the species concerned and the purpose of Dr Bächli’s proposal have been discussed not only in the published application but also in the recent revision of the S. rufifrons species-group by Papp, Rácz & Báchli (1999), which includes a description and figures of the neotype. In my opinion this application is completely satisfactory and I support it.

Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific name of Solenopsis invicta
Buren, 1972 (Insecta, Hymenoptera)
(Case 3069; see BZN 56: 27–30, 198–199)

Sanford D. Porter
Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology, USDA-ARS, P.O. Box 14565, Gainesville, Florida 32604, U.S.A.
Dr Shattuck, Dr Wojcik and I appreciate the strong support of Drs Walter R. Tschinkel, S.B. Vinson and E.O. Wilson for the proposed conservation of Solenopsis invicta Buren. Their comments together with the signatures of 76 colleagues (see BZN 56: 28) reflect the overwhelming support of the fire ant research community for this action. I need to clarify the concern of Stephen W. Taber that we are adopting ‘mere convenience as a standard in scientific endeavor’. Quite the contrary — our proposal is to establish an exception and not a standard. Furthermore, our proposal was motivated by the principle of nomenclatural stability, not ‘mere convenience’.

Comments on the proposed designation of neotypes for the nominal species
Vesperitlio pipistrellus Schreber, 1774 and V. pygmaeus Leach, 1825 (currently Pipistrellus pipistrellus and P. pygmaeus; Mammalia, Chiroptera)
(Case 3073; see BZN 56: 182–186)

(1) D.W. Yalden
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I wish to register my support for this case and express my hope that the Commission will reach an early conclusion. It seems to me only sensible to conserve the name P. pipistrellus for a bat which is very abundant across much of western Europe, including Britain. The use of P. pygmaeus (Leach, 1825) for the cryptic species previously confounded with P. pipistrellus is perhaps more contentious, but it conserves an early name and prevents prolonged searching among later names whose attribution to the new species will be no more certain; its prompt adoption will prevent an unseemly scramble for alternative names. This potential problem has been developing, from taxonomic suspicion to certainty, over 6 or 7 years. It has become the practice to refer to these species by informal names, in the absence of formal nomenclature for them (formal nomenclature having been delayed by lengthy consideration of the best course of action). With the forthcoming Handbook of British Mammals (4th edition) currently under active preparation, it is time this nomenclature was formalized. The present proposals seem an eminently sensible way of doing so, and I support and urge their rapid approval by the Commission.

(2) John D. Altringham
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I am writing in support of the case for the proposed designation of neotypes of P. pipistrellus and P. pygmaeus. I believe the evidence in support of the taxonomic conclusions is now overwhelming. I encourage an early resolution of the issue, since both species are the subject of current research and of a Biodiversity Action Plan.

(3) Tony Lane
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