The exact publication date in Arthropoda Selecta — what does this mean?

Точная дата публикации Arthropoda Selecta — что это означает?

Kirill G. Mikhailov¹, Sergei I. Golovatch²

¹ Zoological Museum MGU, Bolshaya Nikitskaya Str., 2, Moscow 125009 Russia. E-mail: mikhailov2000@gmail.com
² Zoological Museum MGU, Bolshaya Nikitskaya Str., 2, Moscow 125009 Russia. E-mail: sgolovatch@yandex.ru

ABSTRACT. Provision of the exact publication dates for the papers that have appeared and are to appear in Arthropoda Selecta is discussed and shown to strictly follow ICZN Article 21.3. In this connection, the recent rebuttal by Zhao [2019], who, manipulating with publications dates, argued and even reversed the synonymy of two species of Linyphiidae, appears to be superfluous and useless, the correct synonymy of synonymy of two species of Linyphiidae, appears to be with publications dates, argued and even reversed the synonymy of two species of Linyphiidae, appears to be superfluous and useless, the correct synonymy of Nasoonaria circinata Zhao et Li, 2014 under N. magna Tanasevitch, 2014, and that of Theoa bidentata Zhao et Li, 2014 under Th. elegans Tanasevitch, 2014, being reinstated.


РЕЗЮМЕ. Показано, что приведение точных дат публикации работ в журнале Arthropoda Selecta полностью соответствует требованиям статьи 23.1 Международного кодекса зоологической номенклатуры. В этой связи опровергнута недавняя попытка Zhao [2019] оспорить и даже перевернуть с ног на голову на основании манипуляций с датами публикации синонимии Nasoonaria circinata Zhao et Li, 2014 к N. magna Tanasevitch, 2014, а Theoa bidentata Zhao et Li, 2014 к Th. elegans Tanasevitch, 2014.

Article 21 of ICZN [1999] strongly recommends the publishers to provide an exact publication date for any taxonomic paper. In the journals of KMK Scientific Press, such as Arctoa, Arthropoda Selecta, Russian Entomological Journal, Russian Journal of Theriology, Euroasian Entomological Journal and Invertebrate Zoology, as well as in the earlier issues of Acarina (presently no longer belonging to KMK), lots of taxonomic papers have already appeared and lots of new ones are regularly being printed. Provision of the exact publication dates has been recognized as essential both by the editorial boards and KMK since the early 1990’s. This has resulted in clearly and simultaneously dating any paper to appear, both printed and electronic versions.

In Arthropoda Selecta, Russian Entomological Journal and the other journals of KMK Scientific Press that contain taxonomic stuff, publication dates have been shown in several ways. Initially, only the month was provided on the back of the title page in Arthropoda Selecta and Russian Entomological Journal, both since 1992, vs. on the inner cover page in Russian Journal of Theriology (since 2002) or on the back cover page in Invertebrate Zoology (since 2004). This tradition is followed up to now.

Later in 1998, special lines or even pages (since 2015) were created in printed copies of Arthropoda Selecta and Russian Entomological Journal with day-to-day printing data for earlier issues (Figs 1, 2). Since 2001, such data have been provided in elibrary.ru (missing in the current version).

At the beginning of 2013, all information concerning the KMK journals, mainly Arthropoda Selecta and Russian Entomological Journal, including exact publication dates, appeared on the official site of the Zoological Museum, Moscow State University: http://zmmu.msu.ru/spec/publikacii/jurnali. Since then, pdf versions of the papers have been uploaded simultaneously with the appearance of the journals’ printed versions.

The current website for the KMK Scientific Press journals (kmkjournals.com) was launched in 2014. Publication dates were and still are indicated on special pages, https://kmkjournals.com/journals/AS/AS_Exact_Publ_Dates, Arthropoda Selecta taken as an example. Because this information, together with printed dates (like in Fig. 2), clearly and unequivocally shows the appearance of any paper, strictly in accordance with ICZN Article 21.3, we see no reason to follow ICZN Article 21.3.1 which refers to the end of the
Information. Announcements. Информация. Объявления

Announcements. Titles to appear in forthcoming issues of Arthropoda Selecta: Phylogeny and system of the Arthropoda, by Ya.I. Starobogatov; Arthropod evolution from apody to myriapody, as paraphyletic walk with homeotic and neotenic steps, by D.E. Shecherbakov; A new species of the genus Pseudeucrigona: Akatsuka et Komai (Crustacea Amphipoda) from the subterranean fresh waters on the Island Sakhalin, by V.S. Labay; Some crangonid shrimps of the Toza Bay, Japan, by R.N. Bunkevsky; A record of South African deep water lobster Palinurus unicornatus Berry, 1979 (Crustacea Decapoda Palinuridae) in the waters off Kenia, by V.V. Timofeev & Yu.V. Kazarin; Notes on variability and distribution of five species of hermit crabs (Crustacea Decapoda Paguridae) in the Norwegian Sea, by V.I. Sokolov; Taxonomically interesting records of the swimming crabs (Crustacea Decapoda Portunidae) in the Indian Ocean considerably extending known ranges of species, by V.A. Spiridonov; An update of the swimming crabs (Crustacea Decapoda Portunidae) in the western Indian Ocean, by V.A. Spiridonov; Solpugids of Turkmenistan, by A.V. Groznov; Remarks on the Ural spider fauna, by S.L. Espanin & V.E. Efimik; A new species of the mygalomorph genus Atypus by Russian Far East, by T.I. Oligier; Spiders of the genus Pholcus from Maritime Province, Russian Far East, by T.I. Oligier; Miscellaneous notes on the Middle Asian jumping spiders (Aranei Salticidae), by D.V. Logunov & S.Yu. Rakov; On the jumping spider fauna of the southern part of West Siberia (Aranei Salticidae), by S.Yu. Rakov; Notes on the spider genus Stylctetor Sim, 1884 and some related genera, with description of two new species from Siberia (Aranei Linyphiidae), by Yu.M. Musnik & A.V. Tanasevitch.

Fig. 1. First reference to the exact publication date (shown in a box) on a general information page, Arthropoda Selecta printed version, vol.6 (for 1997), nos 3-4 (printed in 1998).

A very surprising paper has recently been published by Zhao [2019], who, manipulating with publication dates, argued, refuted and reversed the synonymy of two linyphiid spider species, Nasoonaria magna Tanasevitch, 2014 and Theoa elegans Tanasevitch, 2014, both described from Thailand [Tanasevitch, 2014] and both subsequently [Tanasevitch, 2016] considered as subjective senior synonyms of Nasoonaria circinata Zhao et Li, 2014 and Theoa bidentata Zhao et Li, 2014, respectively. Both latter taxa were described from a tropical part of Yunnan, China. Because the paper by Zhao & Li [2014] appeared on December 4th, 2014, whereas that by Tanasevitch [2014] on December 2nd, 2014, only two days earlier, Tanasevitch’s
[2016] synonymization naturally followed the Code’s rules of publication date priority, however minor, and established that both *Nasoonaria magna* and *Theoa elegans* be the proper species names to use. Although it is understandably hurtful for Zhao [2019] to see the names *Nasoonaria circinata* and *Theoa bidentata* sunk under *Nasoonaria magna* and *Theoa elegans*, respectively, the arguments he put forth to justify the reverse synonymy and the priority of *Nasoonaria circinata* and *Theoa bidentata* over *Nasoonaria magna* and *Theoa elegans*, respectively, are definitely wrong. The very fact of synonymy thereby remains unquestioned on both sides.

Our reasons to retain and confirm the publication date of Tanasevitch’s [2014] paper as being December 2nd, 2014 are as follows: (1) strict coincidence of the publication dates of electronic and paperwork versions in Arthropoda Selecta and other KMK scientific journals; (2) existence of both electronic and paperwork lists of publication dates of the journals. It is Zhao’s [2019] claim that has prompted us to clarify the situation and to present our rebuttal. But as we do strictly follow the provisions of ICZN Article 21.3, the publication dates of KMK journals may not be questioned.

To summarize, Tanasevitch [2014] was published exactly as stated on the website of the periodical, on December 2nd, 2014, both online and in print. Because there are no real grounds to mistrust this readily available information, the revisionist paper by Zhao [2019] is simply to be ignored and discarded as completely superfluous and useless. Colleague Zhao must simply admit his bad luck!

**References**


Responsible editor Yu.M. Marusik