



## **Case 3841 – Epigrahiidae Guenée, 1845 (Lepidoptera, Gelechioidea): proposed suppression to conserve the widely used family-group name Depressariidae Meyrick, 1883**

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**Case 3841 – EPIGRAPHIIDAE Guenée, 1845 (Lepidoptera, GELECHIOIDEA): proposed suppression to conserve the widely used family-group name DEPRESSARIIDAE Meyrick, 1883**

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## Abstract

The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to suppress the little-used senior family-group name EPIGRAPHIIDAE Guenée, 1845, in order to conserve the well-known family group name DEPRESSARIIDAE Meyrick, 1883 (both in Lepidoptera). Both the name EPIGRAPHIIDAE and its derivatives have been seldom used, with about eleven known uses since 1900, in contrast to its junior synonym DEPRESSARIIDAE.

**Keywords.** Family-group name; EPIGRAPHIIDAE; DEPRESSARIIDAE; GELECHIOIDEA; *Epigrapia*; *Semioscopis*.

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1. Stephens (1829a [June]: 49) established the lepidopteran genus *Epigrapia* for the species *Phalaena avellanella* Hübner, 1793 and *Phalaena (Tortrix) steinkellneriana* [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775, traditionally cited as *Tortrix steinkellneriana* (see Sattler & Tremewan 1984), in his family YPONOMEUTIDAE Stephens, 1829. Both species are currently placed in DEPRESSARIIDAE Meyrick, 1883. The citation of *Phalaena avellanella* by Duponchel (1838: 11) is accepted as the earliest subsequent type-species designation (Nye & Fletcher, 1991: 113). *Epigrapia* was again listed one month later by Stephens (1829b [July]: 202).

2. In 1825, Hübner (Hübner, 1816–[1826]: 402) established the genus *Semioscopis* for the same two species as Stephens (1829a) included in *Epigrapia*, as well as including *Phalaena (Tinea) anella* [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775, traditionally cited as *Tinea anella*. *Phalaena (Tortrix) steinkellneriana* [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775 was subsequently designated as its type species (Westwood, 1840: 111).

3. Guenée (1845: 306) proposed the tribe EPIGRAPHIDI in “Divis. VIII TINEAE Linnaei” for the genus *Epigrapia* Stephens, 1829. He further included the genera *Lemmatophila* Treitschke, 1832 (a junior synonym of *Diurnea* Haworth, 1811) (currently in LYPUSIDAE Herrich-Schäffer, 1857), *Exapate* Hübner, [1825] (attributed to Zeller) (currently in TORTRICIDAE Latreille, 1803), and *Diurnea* Haworth, 1811 (currently in LYPUSIDAE).

4. Most 19<sup>th</sup> century authors used the generic name *Semioscopis* for *avellanella*, the type species of *Epigrapia* (e.g. Zeller, 1839; Stainton, 1849; Herrich-Schäffer, 1854; Stainton, 1854; Frey, 1856; Heinemann, 1870). Stainton (1854: 35, 36) synonymised *Epigrapia* with *Semioscopis*. The interpretation by Herrich-Schäffer (1853; 1854) was particularly confusing, as he recognised both genera, ignored previous designations of type species, and used *Epigrapia* for *steinkellneriana* and *Semioscopis* for *avellanella*. This interpretation was later followed by many authors, at least until Hering (1932).

5. Meyrick (1883: 123) erected the family DEPRESSARIIDAE, with type genus

*Depressaria* Haworth, 1811, and placed in it eight other genera, including *Epigraphia* Stephens, 1829. At the same time, he included the genus *Semioscopis* Hübner, 1825 in the family CHIMABACCHIDAE Heinemann, 1870. *Phalaena heracliana* Linnaeus, 1758 was designated as type species of *Depressaria* by Curtis (1828: folio 221), but later it was discovered that the syntypes consisted of two taxonomic species. Bradley (1966) selected a lectotype that did not belong to the species Curtis had in mind when designating the type for *Depressaria*, and consequently turned Curtis's use of *Ph. heracliana* retroactively into a misidentification. Karsholt et al. (2006: 190) fixed as type under Art. 70.3 *Phalaena radiella* Goeze, 1783.

6. After 1845, the family-group name EPIGRAPHIDI was not used until South (1884: 28) used it in his list, according to his subtitle "Compiled in conformity with the law of priority" and emended the name to the correct spelling EPIGRAPHIIDAE. He placed both the genera *Epigraphia* and *Semioscopis* (and some others) in it, with Herrich-Schäffer's interpretation of their type species. Later, Chapman (1893: 118) included the family name EPIGRAPHIIDAE in his classification based on pupae and larvae. He did not discuss the characters of its representatives, as he probably did not study them.

7. The family name EPIGRAPHIIDAE has been used very erratically during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries: South's (1884) usage was repeated a number of times in species lists in the Victoria County History series in the years 1903–1908 (e.g. Harwood, 1903: 171), see Appendix for all titles. Only much later, Koçak (1986: 52), in a faunistic paper, introduced EPIGRAPHIIDAE as a senior synonym for OECOPHORIDAE Bruand, 1850 [1851]. In a review of classification of GELECHIOIDEA, Leraut (1992: 134) erected the tribe EPIGRAPHIINI within DEPRESSARIINAE, in an enlarged family ELACHISTIDAE Bruand, 1850 [1851] (a junior name); he used EPIGRAPHIINI again in his checklist (Leraut, 1997), as did Vives Moreno (2014), but they still did not regard this senior name as the valid name at subfamily or family level. Also, Heppner (2005: 10) listed the subtribe EPIGRAPHIINA within the tribe DEPRESSARIINI, subfamily DEPRESSARIINAE, family OECOPHORIDAE, again not taking into account strict priority at higher levels.

8. Major handbooks, revisions and checklists in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries placed *Epigraphia* and *Semioscopis* usually in the subfamily DEPRESSARIINAE, family OECOPHORIDAE or tribe DEPRESSARIINI, subfamily OECOPHORINAE, family GELECHIIDAE Stainton, 1854 (Spuler, 1899; Spuler & Meess, 1910; Meyrick, 1922 [as *Depressariades*]; Hering, 1932; Hodges, 1974; 1978; Leraut, 1980; Hodges, 1983; Becker, 1984; Kuznetsov & Stekol'nikov, 1984; Palm, 1989; Scoble, 1992; Kuznetsov & Stekol'nikov, 2001; Harper et al., 2002). Other authors used DEPRESSARIIDAE as family name (Nielsen & Common, 1991; Hannemann, 1995; 1996; Common, 1996; Heikkilä et al., 2014; Sohn et al., 2015; Pohl et al., 2018; Wang & Li, 2020) or DEPRESSARIINAE as subfamily of an enlarged ELACHISTIDAE (Minet, 1990; Hodges, 1998; Kaila, 2004; Pogue, 2009; Kaila et al., 2011; van Nieukerken et al., 2011), or simply an undivided OECOPHORIDAE (Busck, 1908; Clarke, 1941; Lvovsky, 1981). A larger selection of references is given in the Appendix.

9. It is clear that the use of EPIGRAPHIIDAE as the valid name for the family, subfamily or tribe containing the genus *Semioscopis* has not been followed by the large majority of lepidopterists; it has only been used in a very small number of less important papers, usually checklists, partly not following strict priority. As there are uses since 1900, reversal of precedence according to Article 23.9.2 of the Code is not possible, but the conditions are almost met, as the junior synonyms have almost universally been used. Suppression of EPIGRAPHIIDAE would therefore be the best action to take as it otherwise continues

to threaten stability of the well-known and widely used family name DEPRESSARIIDAE. We do not suggest conditional reversal of precedence for this name, as it is a poorly known and little-used name, of which use at any lower level would only cause confusion. Hodges (1998: 158) announced a petition to conserve various family-group names in GELECHIOIDEA, but this was not done until now. An application for conservation of the superfamily name GELECHIOIDEA is now also submitted simultaneously (van Nieukerken et al., 2021). As a superfamily name based on EPIGRAPHIIDAE has never been proposed, the name does not threaten the superfamily name GELECHIOIDEA, following article 35.5.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the family-group name EPIGRAPHIIDAE Guenée, 1845 for the purpose of the Principle of Priority;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Depressaria* Haworth, 1811 (gender: feminine), type species: *Phalaena radiella* Goeze, 1783 (= *Phalaena (Tortrix) heracliana* auct., nec Linnaeus, 1758) by subsequent designation by Curtis (1828) combined with Karsholt et al. (2006: 190) under Art. 70.3;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name DEPRESSARIIDAE Meyrick, 1883, type genus: *Depressaria* Haworth, 1811; and
- (4) to place on the Official Index of the Invalid and Rejected Family-Group Names in Zoology the name EPIGRAPHIIDAE Guenée, 1845, type genus: *Epigraphia* Stephens, 1829, as suppressed in (1) above.

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**Appendix. References for Case 3841 – EPIGRAPHIIDAE Guenée, 1845 (Lepidoptera, GELECHIOIDEA): proposed suppression to conserve the widely used family-group name DEPRESSARIIDAE Meyrick, 1883**

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