



ZOOLOGICAL RECORD INSPIRES NAMING OF NEW BEETLE GENUS

Dr. Roman Holynski is a biologist dedicated to studying the systematics—taxonomy, biogeography and phylogeny—of Coleoptera: Buprestidae, commonly known as jewel beetles. Recognized for their often glossy iridescent color and large size, the Buprestidae are one of the largest beetle families with 15,000 known species classified by various specialists in between ca. 200 and 450 genera.

While preparing his doctoral dissertation in 1998, Holynski found that the beetle known as *Dicercomorpha cupreomaculata* Snd., due to the differences in its wing cases and pronotum (the plate-like structure covering the thorax), should be separated from *Dicercomorpha* Deyr. into an entirely new genus.

Selecting the name for a new taxon, a scientist must not violate the requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, a set of rules designed to assist the zoological community in the naming of animals and the resolution of nomenclatural problems. The Code mandates that the name of a species, genus or otherwise must be unique. Once an acceptable name is chosen and published, it is valid forever and may not be copied.

Since the beginning of his career, Holynski had used Thomson Reuters Zoological Record® — the world's oldest continuing database of animal biology — to find relevant publications to inform his research.

The Zoological Record acts as “a source of information about sources of information,” said Holynski. “It provides the most reliable and easy way to find the publications relevant to one’s own research. This is indispensable for a young scientist.”

The name originally selected by Holynski, *Tristria* Hol (2001), was already in use, having been applied to Chinese orthopteran (a kind of grasshopper), *Tristria* Stål. The Zoological Record employs a rigorous editorial process to analyze its assiduously curated content. The database analysts soon alerted Dr. John K. Page, then-manager of the solution, to a discrepancy in the naming of the new jewel beetle genus. Page contacted Holynski immediately to inform him of the conflict.

In recognition of Page and the Zoological Record’s contributions, Holynski changed the name of the beetle from *Tristria* to *Zoolrecordia* Hol.

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"I wanted to recognize the formidable work of the compilers of Zoological Record and their invaluable service to biologists in general and zoological taxonomists in particular," said Holynski. Dr. Holynski continues to utilize Zoological Record for his research.

Zoological Record is the world's oldest continuing database of animal biology.

It is considered the leading taxonomic reference with coverage dating to 1864, and has long acted as the unofficial register of animal names. The broad scope of coverage ranges from biodiversity and the environment to taxonomy and veterinary sciences.

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