

**UNAVAILABILITY OF THE GENUS GROUP NAME *MEZAMMIRA*  
(HEMIPTERA: CICADIDAE)**

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**Abstract** – The genus name *Mezammira*, attributed to Fieber 1876, was recently proposed to classify several Palaearctic cicada species by Gogala, Puissant & Trilar (2017). The availability of the genus name *Mezammira* is discussed. Following the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, *Mezammira* cannot be used as an available name. The genus name *Oligoglana* Horváth, 1912 status revised is proposed as a substitute name. The following new combinations are recognized: *Oligoglana carayoni* (Boulard, 1982) comb.nov., *Oligoglana filoti* (Gogala & Trilar, 2017) comb.nov., *Oligoglana flaveola* (Brullé, 1833) comb.nov., *Oligoglana goumenissa* (Gogala, Drosopoulos & Trilar, 2012) comb.nov., *Oligoglana iphigenia* (Emeljanov, 1996) comb.nov., *Oligoglana parvula* (Fieber, 1876) comb.nov., *Oligoglana popovi* (Emeljanov, 1996) comb.nov., *Oligoglana sakisi* (Gogala & Trilar, 2017) comb.nov., *Oligoglana sibilatrix* (Horváth, 1901) comb.nov., *Oligoglana tibialis* (Panzer, 1798), *Oligoglana turcica* (Schedl, 2001) comb.nov.

**KEY WORDS:** *Mezammira*, *Cicadivetta*, *Oligoglana*, *Heptaglana*, cicadas, taxonomy, nomenclature, availability.

**Izvešček – NERAZPOLOŽLJIVOST IMENA RODOVNE SKUPINE *MEZAMMIRA*  
(HEMIPTERA: CICADIDAE)**

Rodovno ime *Mezammira*, pripisano Fiebru 1876, so Gogala, Puissant in Trilar (2017) nedavno predlagali za uvrstitev več palearktičnih vrst škržadov. Razpoložljivost rodovnega imena *Mezammira* je predmet razprave. Po pravilih Mednarodnega pravilnika zoološke nomenklature ime *Mezammira* ne more biti uporabljeno kot razpoložljivo ime. Za nadomestno ime je predlagano rodovno ime *Oligoglana* Horváth, 1912 z revidiranim statusom. Pripoznane so naslednje nove kombinacije: *Oligoglana*

*carayoni* (Boulard, 1982) comb.nov., *Oligoglena filoti* (Gogala & Trilar, 2017) comb.nov., *Oligoglena flaveola* (Brullé, 1833) comb.nov., *Oligoglena goumenissa* (Gogala, Drosopoulos & Trilar, 2012) comb.nov., *Oligoglena iphigenia* (Emeljanov, 1996) comb.nov., *Oligoglena parvula* (Fieber, 1876) comb.nov., *Oligoglena popovi* (Emeljanov, 1996) comb.nov., *Oligoglena sakisi* (Gogala & Trilar, 2017) comb.nov., *Oligoglena sibilatrix* (Horváth, 1901) comb.nov., *Oligoglena tibialis* (Panzer, 1798), *Oligoglena turcica* (Schedl, 2001) comb.nov.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: *Mezammira*, *Cicadivetta*, *Oligoglena*, *Heptaglena*, škržadi, taksonomija, nomenklatura, razpoložljivost.

## Introduction

Working on the 3i World Auchenorrhyncha Database (Dmitriev, 2003 online), helped to recover several inconsistencies in the Auchenorrhyncha nomenclature (e.g. Dmitriev & Dietrich, 2006, Zahniser, McKamey & Dmitriev, 2012, Dmitriev & McKamey, 2013). Many more are still to be resolved. This paper is dedicated to the genus group name *Mezammira* which was recently used as a valid genus name for several Palaearctic species of singing cicadas.

The name *Mezammira* was first introduced by Amyot (1847: page 157) for a new species of cicada from Greece. This publication of Amyot was placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 2006: Opinion 2165). Gogala, Puissant & Trilar (2017) proposed a resurrection of the genus name *Mezammira* with a new authorship attributed to Fieber (1876) and placed 11 species, including two new species, into this genus. The authors stated that Fieber (1876) was the first who used *Mezammira* Amyot as a synonym of *Cicadetta* Kolenati, 1857 and established an association of this name with *Cicadetta flaveola* (Brullé, 1833), which could be considered as a type species designation for *Mezammira*, and thus making it an available name. The authors referred to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) Articles 11.6.1, which applies to a name published as a junior synonym and treated before 1961 as an available name and either adopted as the name of a taxon or treated as a senior homonym, it is made available thereby but dates from its first publication as a synonym. For the authorship of this name ICZN Article 50.7 was used: if a scientific name was first published in the synonymy of an available name and became available before 1961 through the provisions of Article 11.6, its author is the person who published it as a synonym, even if some other originator is cited, and is not the person who subsequently adopted it as a valid name.

## Results

Unfortunately, *Mezammira* Fieber, 1876 cannot be adopted as neither valid nor available name for several reasons:

- 1). According to ICZN Article 11.6.1, to become available, the name first published as a synonym should be treated before 1961 as an available name and adopted as the name of a taxon. “Adopted as the name of a taxon” means that the name should be used as a valid name, and it should be used as valid in a work published before 1961 (see an Example to ICZN Article 11.6.1). The second option provided by ICZN Article 11.6.1 states that the name could be treated as a senior homonym before 1961. Both options are not applicable to *Mezammira* which was never used as a valid name before the paper of Gogala, Puissant & Trilar (2017), it is not also a senior homonym for another genus group name in Zoology (Nomenclator Zoologicus, 2004 online). The authors state that the name was placed in Nomenclator Zoologicus by Neave (1940), but according to ICZN Articles 11.5.2 and 23.9.6, a simple listing of the name in a nomenclator must not be taken into account in determining usage of the name.
- 2). According to ICZN Article 23.3, the synonymy could only be applied to taxa within one nomenclatural group, the family group, genus group or species group. This means, that a genus group name could not be treated as a synonym of a species group name. Fieber (1876) placed *Mezammira* in the list of synonyms (usages) of *Cicadetta flaveola* (Brullé, 1833) on page 121 and not in the list of synonyms of *Cicadetta*, which could be found on the page 60. This is congruent with a modern practice of placing previously used temporary names in the list of synonyms (e.g. “*Cicadetta* sp. A”, listed as a synonym of a valid species). This act does not establish a synonymy in a strict ICZN (1999) sense.
- 3). ICZN Article 11.6 states that a name which when first published in an available work was treated as a junior synonym of a name then used as valid is not thereby made available. ICZN Article 11.6.1 provides an exception from this rule. The publication of Amyot (1847) is not an available publication, so the next available publication could potentially fix the availability of the name, if all other ICZN (1999) requirements are fulfilled. The first available paper which cites *Mezammira* is the paper by Walker (1850), and not Fieber (1876). Walker established a new species name *Cicada Mezammira*, which was proposed as valid name for *Mezammira* Amyot. *Cicada mezammira* Walker, 1850 (the initial letter of species name corrected to a lower-case according to the ICZN Article 32.5.2.5) should be considered as an available name with the availability requirements fulfilled by a reference to Amyot’s publication (ICZN Article 13.1.2). The name *Cicada mezammira* Walker, 1850 was never used as a valid name by subsequent authors.

A new revised classification of the genus is proposed in accordance with ICZN Article 23.3.5: if a name in use for a taxon is found to be unavailable or invalid it must be replaced by the next oldest available name from among its synonyms. Gogala, Puissant & Trilar (2017) indicated that if *Mezammira* cannot be used as an available name, the genus name *Oligoglana* Horváth, 1912 would take precedence. They also established a new synonymy with the genus name *Cicadivetta* Boulard, 1982.

Family **Cicadidae** Latreille, 1802  
 Subfamily **Cicadettinae** Buckton, 1889  
 Tribe **Cicadettini** Buckton, 1889  
***Oligoglana* Horváth, 1912 status revised**

= *Heptaglana* Horváth, 1911: 607 (type species: *Heptaglana libanotica* Horváth, 1911: 607, homonym of *Heptaglana* Schmarda, 1850: 12, type species: *Heptaglana digitata* Schmarda, 1850: 12, Rotifera)

*Oligoglana* Horváth, 1912: 606 replacement name for *Heptaglana* (type species *Heptaglana libanotica* Horváth, 1911: 607)

= *Cicadivetta* Boulard 1982: 50 **syn.nov.** (type species: *Tettigonia tibialis* Panzer, 1798: 5)

= *Mezammira* Gogala, Puissant & Trilar, 2017: 9 **nomen nudum**

### Included species

*Oligoglana carayoni* (Boulard, 1982: 103) (orig. gen. *Tettigetia*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana filoti* (Gogala & Trilar in Gogala, Puissant & Trilar, 2017: 23) (orig. gen. *Mezammira*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana flaveola* (Brullé, 1833: 112) (orig. gen. *Tibicen*) **comb.nov.**

= *Cicada mezammira* Walker, 1850: 229 **syn.nov.**

*Oligoglana goumenissa* (Gogala, Drosopoulos & Trilar, 2012: 7) (orig. gen. *Cicadivetta*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana iphigenia* (Emeljanov, 1996: 1899) (orig. gen. *Cicadetta*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana parvula* (Fieber, 1876: 97) (orig. gen. *Cicadetta*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana popovi* (Emeljanov, 1996: 1897) (orig. gen. *Cicadetta*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana sakisi* (Gogala & Trilar in Gogala, Puissant & Trilar, 2017: 28) (orig. gen. *Mezammira*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana sibilatrix* (Horváth, 1901: 483) (orig. gen. *Cicadetta*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana tibialis* (Panzer, 1798: 5) (orig. gen. *Tettigonia*) **comb.nov.**

*Oligoglana turcica* (Schedl, 2001: 1287) (orig. gen. *Tettigetia*) **comb.nov.**

### Conclusions

The genus group name *Mezammira*, as it was proposed by Gogala, Puissant & Trilar (2017) and used as an original genus for two new species and as a genus name in several new combinations should be treated as *nomen nudum*. It fulfils all the formal requirement for an available name, except for the provisions of ICZN Article 16.1: to be available, every new name published after 1999 must be explicitly indicated as intentionally new.

The genus group name *Mezammira* could be described as a new genus group name in the future. *Mezammira* Amyot, 1847 and *Mezammira* Gogala, Puissant &

Trilar, 2017 both are unavailable names and as such, they do not compete for priority or homonymy with any other existing or future name in zoology (ICZN Article 23.1).

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