

Comments on the proposed conservation of *Phororhacos* Ameghino, 1889 (Aves, Gruiformes)

(Case 2723; see BZN 47: 198–201)

(1) Storrs L. Olson

Department of Vertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

Chiappe & Soria propose to conserve the generic name *Phororhacos* Ameghino, 1889 over the senior spelling *Phorusrhacos* Ameghino, 1887, which was used in the combination *Phorusrhacos longissimus* Ameghino, 1887, new genus and species. Their

justification for this lies with the spelling *Phororhacos* having been used by practically all authors after 1889 until the publication of Brodkorb's (1967) *Catalogue*, and also because of the fear of confusion resulting from supposedly having to retain the family spelling PHORORHACIDAE even if the genus *Phorusrhacos* were used. These arguments seem neither compelling nor valid, however.

Because the species name *longissimus* must still date from the 1887 publication in the original combination *Phorusrhacos longissimus*, substitution of the junior emendation *Phororhacos* for the generic name would not be without some level of bibliographic confusion itself. For this reason, and because it is always desirable not to circumvent priority unnecessarily, the spelling *Phorusrhacos* should be retained. As Chiappe & Soria have shown, most recent authors, following Brodkorb (1967), have already adopted this usage without undue confusion. The name *Phorusrhacos* is consequently well established in the modern literature, is widely understood, and need not be changed once again.

Contrary to the interpretation of Chiappe & Soria, I do not consider that Article 40a of the Code applies to this case and therefore it is not necessary to retain the name PHORORHACIOAE as the family name to include *Phorusrhacos*. Article 40a states that a family name is to be retained even if it is based on a 'rejected junior synonym'. *Phororhacos*, however, is merely an unjustified emendation of *Phorusrhacos*. PHORORHACIOAE is itself but an emendation of Ameghino's 'PHORORHACOSIDAE', and there is no reason to regard the name PHORUSRHACIOAE as anything more than Brodkorb's (1967) having merely extended this process of emendation.

Because both priority and current usage are in agreement in this case, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked not to invoke its plenary powers to accept the proposals on BZN 47: 199, but instead to support the status quo by placing the following names on the relevant Official Lists:

- (1) *Phorusrhacos* Ameghino, 1887 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Phorusrhacos longissimus* Ameghino, 1887;
- (2) *longissimus* Ameghino, 1887, as published in the binomen *Phorusrhacos longissimus* (specific name of the type species of *Phorusrhacos* Ameghino, 1887);
- (3) PHORUSRHACIOAE Ameghino, 1889 (type genus *Phorusrhacos* Ameghino, 1887) (correction by Brodkorb (1967) of PHORORHACOSIOAE).