When the Danish diacritic evaporates: nomenclatural considerations on the generic name 
\textit{Sorensenella} Pocock, 1903 (Opiliones: Insidiatores: Triaenonychidae)

Quando il diacritico danese sparisce: considerazioni nomenclaturali sul nome generico 
\textit{Sorensenella} Pocock, 1903 (Opiliones: Insidiatores: Triaenonychidae)

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Abstract

The persistent misspelling of the genus name \textit{Sorensenella} Pocock, 1903 is detected and corrected, which also affects the family-group name \textit{Sorensenellinae} Forster, 1954. Altogether three different misspellings are recorded.

Keywords: New Zealand, harvestmen, Laniatores.

Riassunto


Parole chiave: Nuova Zelanda, opilionidi, Laniatores.

Introduction

This contribution carries on with a series of small works on nomenclature of Opiliones, aiming to clarify the taxonomy toward an accurate publication of a world catalog of the order. Herein \textit{Sorensenella} Pocock, 1903, a small genus of Insidiatores of the family Triaenonychidae with four species from New Zealand, is dealt with. This genus carries special weight because it is the type of the subfamily \textit{Sorensenellinae} Forster, 1954. The genus has consistently been misspelled in the literature as \textit{Soerensenella}, and below the
correct formation and use of this name are explained, which should also extend to the subfamily. Literature citations of taxa are not exhaustive, but rather only those relevant to the purposes of this work. Complete citations for everything will be featured in the above mentioned Catalog of Opiliones of the World. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999) is herein referred to as simply ICZN Code.

**Historical background and discussion**

1) Pocock (1903a) described in the family Triaenonychidae the new genus *Sorensenella* Pocock, 1903 along with the species *Sorensenella prehensor* Pocock, 1903 (which is the type by original designation) from New Zealand. This name was a tribute to the Danish arachnologist William Emil Sørensen (1848–1916), who made very important contributions in Opiliones. In the introduction on page 392 Pocock spelled the genus name as *Sörensenella*, with a diacritic, and in the rest of the paper he spelled it as *Sorensenella*. The ICZN Code Art. 32.5.2. states that: “A name published with a diacritic or other mark, ligature, apostrophe, or hyphen, or a species-group name published as separate words of which any is an abbreviation, is to be corrected.”.

2) Publication date of Pocock (1903a). The nominal date of the volume is “May–December 1902”, although in the list of contents, the precise dates of each part of the volume II are given. Pocock’s article bears the publication date December 2, 1902. However, soon afterwards, Pocock (1903b) explicitly stated the date thus: “Proc. Zool. Soc. 1902, ii. p. 409 (April 1903).” Indeed, Duncan (1937: 75) explained that the pages in question were issued in April, 1903.

3) Pocock (1903b: 439) cited the genus as *Sorensenella* without the diacritic. Although he did not mention the former discrepancy of spellings, nor cited the alternative spelling, he should in this case be regarded as the First Reviser. I quote ICZN Code Art. 24.2.4: “Original authors may be deemed to be First Revisers of spellings. When the author, or one of joint authors, of two different original spellings of the same name subsequently uses one of them as valid in a work (including the author's or publisher's corrigenda), and neither had previously been selected as the correct spelling by a First Reviser, the author is deemed to be the First Reviser, whether or not the author cites both spellings together (that used as valid becomes the correct original spelling).”.

4) Roewer (1915b) in a review of the Triaenonychidae cited a new spelling that had not appeared before, consistently writing *Soerensenella* in the key (page 66), in the genus heading (page 92) and in the captions for the figures of the species (pages 93–94). Roewer surely meant to correct the name to *Soerensenella*, adding an –e, which is corroborated by other formations he did based on the name Sørensen (e.g., *Triacumontia soerenseni* Roewer 1915
in the same paper). However, as this spelling was neither among the original ones, nor it was presented as a correction (a “better” Latinization), it should be simply regarded as an incorrect subsequent spelling (ICZN Code Art. 33.3).

5) Hogg (1920: 42–43) consistently followed Pocock by writing Sorensenella.

6) Roewer (1923: 599–600) created yet another spelling, probably the same that he intended to coin already in 1915 – Soerensenella – conveying the idea that the Latin –oe should represent the -ø (o with Umlaut) first used by Pocock, which in turn would be the correct rendering of the Danish -ø (o with stroke). However, the ICZN Code (Art. 32.5.2.1) rules very specifically the correction of names originally spelled with diacritics: “In the case of a diacritic or other mark, the mark concerned is deleted, except that in a name published before 1985 and based upon a German word, the umlaut sign is deleted from a vowel and the letter "e" is to be inserted after that vowel (if there is any doubt that the name is based upon a German word, it is to be so treated).” As the name Sorensenella is NOT based on a German word, Roewer’s spelling is another incorrect subsequent spelling.

7) All subsequent authors (e.g., Phillipps & Grimmet 1932: 737; Forster 1954: 247; Hickman 1958: 3; Ringuelet 1959: 252; Rodriguez & Guerrero 1976: 246; Buzatto et al. 2013: 150; Kury et al. 2014: 2; Shear et al. 2014: 252) followed Roewer’s misspelling Soerensenella.


9) Forster (1954: 247) based on the misspelling Soerensenella coined the subfamily name Soerensenellinae Forster, 1954. This name was never spelled otherwise in the literature (e.g., Hickman 1958: 3; Kauri 1961: 75; Juberthie 1964: 59; Briggs 1971: 3; Maury 1988: 123; Kury 2003: 13). However, the spelling of this name should be changed to Sorensenellinae to match the fixation of the correct spelling of the type genus. According to ICZN Code Art. 35.4.1: “A family-group name based upon an unjustified emendation (but see Article 35.4.2) or an incorrect spelling of the name of the type genus must be corrected, unless it is preserved under Article 29.5 or unless the spelling of the genus-group name used to form the family-group name is preserved under Articles 33.2.3.1 or 33.3.1.”

Taxonomic summary

Laniatores Thorell, 1876
Triaenonychidae Sørensen, 1886

Soerensenellinae Forster, 1954

Sorensenella Pocock, 1903
Sørensenella (incorrect original spelling) Pocock 1903a: 392 [type species: Soerensenella prehensor Pocock, 1903, by original designation].
Sorensenella Pocock 1903a: 409.
Sorensenella (spelling fixed by the action of the First Reviser): Pocock 1903b: 439; Hogg 1920: 42.
Soersenella Roewer 1915: 92 (incorrect subsequent spelling).
Akaroa Roewer 1931: 169 [junior subjective synonym of Soersenella Pocock, 1903 by Forster (1954: 248); type species: Akaroa formosa Roewer, 1931, by monotypy].

Etymology. Sorensenella in honor of Danish arachnologist William Emil Sørensen (1848–1916). Gender feminine. The name appeared with two alternative spellings in the original work. Roewer (1915; 1923) created two other [subsequent incorrect] spellings.


Conclusions

1) Sorensenella Pocock, [April] 1903 is one of two original spellings of this genus name.
2) Sorensenella Pocock, [April] 1903 is the alternative spelling.
3) The precise date of Pocock’s work is April 1903, in spite of having the nominal date 1902 and having being several times cited as of 1902.
4) Pocock [May] 1903 acted as the First Reviser fixing the spelling as Sorensenella.
5) This fixation would have made no difference because Sorensenella should have been emended to Sorensenella anyway.
6) Soersenella is an incorrect subsequent spelling by Roewer (1915).
7) Soersenella is yet another incorrect subsequent spelling by Roewer (1923), and should be abandoned, in spite of having been cited many times in the literature.
8) The subfamily name Soerenstellinae Forster, 1954 is based on a misspelling of the genus name.
9) A subfamily name based on the genus name Sorensenella should be Sorensellinae, therefore Sorensellinae Forster, 1954 is herein adopted as the correct spelling.

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POCOCK R. I. (1903a). On some new harvest-spiders of the order Opiliones from the southern continents. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London. (1902) Part 2, 2 (6), 392–413. [Issued April 1903, fide Duncan 1937; while nominal date is “2 Dec 1902”].


