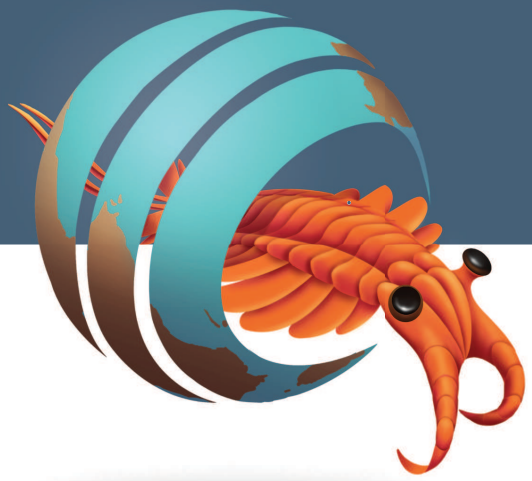

1st Palaeontological Virtual Congress

December 1st-15th, 2018

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Palaeontology in the virtual era

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Fossil insect-names, publications, databases

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ADDRESSING PALAEOENTOMOLOGICAL TAXONOMIC DATA: OPEN NOMENCLATURE QUALIFIERS FOR SPECIMENS, NAMES AND IN TAXON GRAPHICAL DISPLAY

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***Keywords**: taxonomy, nomenclature, chresonymy, qualifiers, databases.*

Difficulties of accessing diagnostic characters that might be poorly preserved or simply lacking in palaeoentomological specimens due to their state of preservation, coupled with the intrinsic variability of the species, often give rise to various degrees of uncertainty in their attribution to a given taxon and is sometimes tentatively evaluated/qualified. Although the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature does not regulate usage of such Open Nomenclature Qualifiers (ONQ), their use in palaeontological taxonomic practices is relatively more common than in neontology, although their application still requires standardization. Particularly, ONQ have been indiscriminately used for specimens, names or taxa, sometimes leading to more taxonomic uncertainty than the precision desired.

Chresonyms, which include all published uses of a given taxon name (e.g. synonyms, homonyms, etc.) cover also these cases. However, documenting them in taxonomic databases is most often challenging, approximated, or just impossible. As presented in palaeoentomology particularly, reporting these names applied to specific specimens and allocating them to a given taxon varies in meaning, content and authors' practices.

To complement or make quicker and more explicit a usually arid textual enumeration of chresonyms, taxon name history can also be displayed by graphical presentations such as in FLOW – Fulgoromorpha Lists on the Web. With a clear definition of the type of entity to which an ONQ is applied – either a specimen, a name or a taxon – such visual displays could be adapted for use with Open Nomenclature (ON) taxonomic names for a better understanding of a fossil insect taxon.