On the status of *Batracarus* Vercammen-Grandjean, 1968 (Acari: Leeuwenhoekiidae)

ZHI-QIANG ZHANG\(^1\) & TINGHUAN WEN\(^2\)

\(^1\) Landcare Research, Private Bag 92-170, Auckland, New Zealand; e-mail: ZhangZ@landcare.cri.nz

\(^2\) Medical Acarology Laboratory, Medical Center, Fudan University, Shanghai 200032, China; e-mail: thwenc@online.sh.cn

Vercammen-Grandjean (1968) established the genus *Batracarus* for *Hannemania rouxi* Oudemans as a member of the tribe Whartoniiini (Prostigmata: Trombiculidae: Leeuwenhoekiinae). The type and the only member species was described by Oudemans (1917) from larvae collected in New Caledonia and Loyalty Island (South Pacific Ocean). Vercammen-Grandjean (1968) also examined larval specimens of this species from Malaysia. The larvae of this species are parasites of frogs.

In a list of the genera of Leeuwenhoekiinae, Vercammen-Grandjean (1973) did not include *Batracarus*, nor did he explain why. It is thus unknown if Vercammen-Grandjean (1973) transferred *B. rouxi* back to *Hannemania* and considered *Batracanus* a junior synonym of *Hannemania* Oudemans, or if he forgot to include it. *Batracarus* was also neither listed as a valid genus nor considered a synonym of other genera in subsequent major papers on the Leeuwenhoekiinae (included in Trombiculidae *s. l.*; Reed & Brennan 1975; Kudryashova 1998). The status of *Batracarus* Vercammen-Grandjean is thus unresolved, but it must be settled because of its homonymy with *Batracarus* Fain, 1961, a member of the subfamily Lawrencarinae (Prostigmata: Ereynetidae).

*Batracarus* Fain, 1961 was established for a single species, *B. hylaranae* Fain, 1961. Males and females of this species were found in the nasal pit of *Hylarana erythreae* (Schlegel) (Ranidae) in Buitenzorg, Java. Fain (1961) gave a brief description of *B. hylaranae* based on adults. Fain (1962) added more details for adults and also described the larva, protonymph and deutonymph.

*Batracarus* Fain, 1961 and *Batracarus* Vercammen-Grandjean, 1968 are very different mites and are homonymous. If the latter has no known available and potentially valid synonyms, it must be replaced by a new substitute name.
according to Article 60.3 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999 Fourth Edition). Because *B. rouxi* and the type species of *Hannemania* (*H. hylodeus* Oudemans) (revised by Fuller 1952) do not have any differences in characters that we feel are of generic significance in the Leeuwenhoekiinae, we herein consider *Batracarus* Vercammen-Grandjean a junior synonym of *Hannemania* Oudemans, and this avoids the need for a new name.

**Acknowledgement** We thank Joel Hallan (Texas, USA) for alerting us to the homonymy between *Batracarus* Fain and *Batracarus* Vercammen-Grandjean.

**References**


