

Comment (Case 3711) – Support for the proposed availability of *Iberolacerta* Arribas and *Darevskia* Arribas either from Arribas (1997) or from Arribas (1999)

(see BZN 75: 122–129 [Case])

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<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:C38F928E-2EA8-43EB-9649-6C918E7AB225>

<http://dx.doi.org/10.21805/bzn.v75.a052>

As a student of lacertid lizards including those ascribed to the genera *Iberolacerta* and *Darevskia* I am perfectly aware of the complex taxonomic history of both groups. As a member of the Spanish scientific community with a PhD defended on 1993, I am also familiar with the academic procedures of Spanish universities, including *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*, for the PhD defence and document repository during the last decade of the last century.

Consequently, I am in the position to affirm that *Iberolacerta* and *Darevskia* have been for a long time the standard names for these groups, either in taxonomical and evolutionary works or in those oriented to ecology, physiology and behaviour, among others. Beyond the fact that *Caucasilacerta* does not fulfil the standards of a taxonomic description, this generic name has also never been formally used in any proper taxonomic context.

On the other hand, although microfiches are now out-of-date as a means of publication, they were quite common in the early 1990s and mandatory in Spanish universities those days. A delay of 1–2 years of publication after the defence was the rule. I can speak to this with personal experience because this was the case with my own PhD.

Overall, I consider that the genera *Iberolacerta* and *Darevskia* are now of common if not exclusive use among the community of students of lacertids from all disciplines; that the author of the descriptions just followed the academic rules prevailing at that date and place; and that conserving that as *Iberolacerta* Arribas, 1997 and *Darevskia* Arribas, 1997 according to Alternative A proposed by Arribas et al. (2018) would be the best decision to preserve nomenclatural stability. If this could not be accepted, my advice would be using *Iberolacerta* Arribas, 1999 and *Darevskia* Arribas, 1999 following the Alternative B proposed by Arribas et al. (2018). In any case, *Caucasilacerta* does not deserve to be considered an available name.

References

Arribas OJ, Ananjeva NB, Carranza S, Doronin IV, Orlov NL, Orlova VF (2018) Case 3711 – *Iberolacerta* Arribas and *Darevskia* Arribas (Chordata, Squamata, LACERTIDAE): proposals to deem these names available either from Arribas (1997 or from Arribas (1999). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 75: 122–129.