

Comment (Case 3711) – Additional remarks in 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]; BZN 75: 255 [Comment])

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As a researcher who has devoted part of her career to studying the *Darevskia praticola* complex, I want to appeal for the preservation of the generic name *Darevskia* (Case 3711), because I think that this is the only solution that is nomenclaturally justified. My opinion is based on the following:

Almost simultaneously, several authors (Arribas, 1997, 1999; Fu, 1998; Harris et al., 1998), based on molecular (Fu, l.c.; Harris et al., l.c.) or on primarily morphological analyses (Arribas, 1997, 1999) confirmed the previous assumptions (Arnold, 1989) on the separation of Caucasian lacertid lizards into a distinct clade. Arribas (1997, 1999) and Harris et al. (1998) suggested that the Caucasian rock lizards together with the forest lizards “*L. praticola*”, “*L. derjugini*” and “*L. chlorogaster*” should be isolated in a separate genus. Similar observations had Fu (1998) considering that the subgenus *Archaeolacerta* – mountain lizards of Caucasus, Balkans and Iberian Peninsula (Mehely, 1907; Darevsky, 1967) – is not monophyletic, and that the European “*Archaeolacerta*” and the Caucasian “*Archaeolacerta*” (“*L. saxicola*” complex) are not sister groups and must be considered as different genera. The same author, however, did not propose any names for these genera. Harris et al. (1998) proposed the name *Caucasilacerta* for a new genus, but without valid diagnosis. Given that Arribas named the genus as *Darevskia* in his doctoral dissertation a year earlier (Arribas, 1997), *Caucasilacerta* has been considered as a younger synonym (Bischoff, 2001). My opinion is that *Caucasilacerta* should be considered as a nomen nudum because of the lack of a valid diagnosis. Arribas (1997) gave a diagnosis for the genus *Darevskia*. The paper based on his PhD dissertation was published in 1999 in the Russian Journal of Herpetology.

Darevskia, as the only scientifically justified name, has been accepted by a large number of researchers, and widely used for 20 years in a large number of scientific papers. I personally used the name *Darevskia* in my doctoral thesis (Ljubisavljević, 2004) and also in a number of papers that included analyses of the *Darevskia praticola* complex (Ljubisavljević et al., 2006, 2008; Ljubisavljević & Džukić, 2015; Tomović et al., 2014, 2015; Urošević et al., 2013, 2015, 2019).

Given these facts, I suggest the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to accept the publication Arribas (1997) and to place *Darevskia* (Arribas 1997) on the Official List of Generic Names.

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