



## Correspondence

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### **Resolving the publication date of J.W. Randall's *Catalogue of Crustacea brought by Thomas Nuttall and J.K. Townsend, from the west coast of North America and the Sandwich Islands*, and an updated checklist of the Decapoda described therein (Crustacea: Achelata, Anomura, Astacidea, Brachyura, Caridea, Dendrobranchiata)**

MARTYN E. Y. LOW

*Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus, Senbaru, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213, Japan. E-mail: m.low@me.com*

John Witt Randall (b. 1813, d. 1892; Anonymous 1892: 316) published a *Catalogue of the Crustacea brought by Thomas Nuttall and J.K. Townsend, from the west coast of North America and the Sandwich Islands ...* (hereafter the *Catalogue*), in the first part of the eighth volume of the *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* (Randall 1840).

The date printed on the title page of the volume (i.e. the 'imprint') is 1839 (Fig. 1). This date has been adopted by some authors (see Anonymous, 1892; Galil, 2003). However, the majority of authors cite "1840" as the date of publication (e.g., De Grave *et al.* 2009; Sherborn 1929). Sherborn (1929: 4673) listed: "*Pachygrapsus* J.W. Randall, J. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. VIII., post Jan. 1840, 126.—Cr.", without any further discussion.

In all *Opinions* issued by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature relating to the names published in Randall's *Catalogue*, the date 1840 has been accepted as the date of publication (see Melville & Smith 1987). In none of these *Opinions* or their corresponding applications, however, was evidence for accepting 1840 as the date of publication of the *Catalogue* discussed (e.g. ICZN 1964, 1968).

The contents of Randall's *Catalogue* were read at the 18 June 1839 meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Meisel (1926: 144) listed "v. 8, pt. 1 1839 p. 1–171" in a bibliography of American scientific literature, whereas Fox (*in* Nolan 1913: viii) stated: "Vol. VIII, Part I. Presented to Academy meeting, May 5, 1840" in a bibliography of the *Journal and Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia*. Dickinson *et al.* (2011: 206, 231–233) discussed the accuracy of the dates given by Fox (*in* Nolan 1913) for the *Journal and Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia*, and recommend that these be used as 'not after' dates.

An accurate date of publication of Randall's *Catalogue* is important as at least two of Randall's (1840) names (*Macrophthalmus* [sic] *compressipes* and *Pachygrapsus parallelus*) are respective synonyms of two names described by Owen in 1839 (*Macrophthalmus telescopicus* and *Metopograpsus thukuhar*) (Table 1). Recognising this synonymy, Anonymous (*in* Gibbes 1850: 29, 30) discussed that the "Voyage of the Blossom [i.e. Owen, 1839] being dated in 1839, and Dr. Randall's paper having been read before the Academy, June 18th, 1839, although not actually published in the *Journal* until January, 1840". Based on this evidence provided by Anonymous (*in* Gibbes 1850: 29, 30) and Sherborn (1929: 4673), a date of publication between 31 January 1840 (Article 21.3.1 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, ICZN 1999: 22) and 5 May 1840 (Fox *in* Nolan 1913: viii) for Randall's *Catalogue* is suggested.

It should be noted some of the Crustacea described by Owen (1839) were also described in a hitherto overlooked *Catalogue of the Contents of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons in London* which was published anonymously (Anonymous 1830). The names in this publication are the subject of forthcoming publication (Low *et al.*, manuscript).

Eight other publications describing new taxa were published in the same issue of the *Journal* as Randall's *Catalogue*: Say (1840) on insects, Bachman (1840a–c) on mammals, Townsend (1840a, b) and Trudeau (1840) on birds, and Wagner (1840) on fossil molluscs. The dates of publication of some of the new taxa described in these publications have also sometimes been cited as 1839. For example, the date of publication of "*Pyranga* [sic] *leucoptera*", described by Trudeau (1840: 160), is cited as "1839" in a checklist of birds by Paynter (1970: 308).

The new names for the Decapoda established in Randall's (1840) *Catalogue* and their current identities are listed in Table 1.