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ON *DITYLENCHUS MALEKI* FORTUNER & MAGGENTI, 1987, (NEMATODA: ANGUINIDAE)

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Fortuner and Maggenti (1987), in their reappraisal of the family Anguinidae Nicoll, 1935 synonymized the genus *Nothotylenchus* Thorne, 1941 with *Ditylenchus* Filipjev, 1936. In the species list they renamed *Nothotylenchus major* Thorne & Malek, 1968 as *Ditylenchus maleki*, because of homonymy of the former name with *D. major* (Fuchs, 1915).

Actually this remaining is unnecessary. Fuchs' species was originally described under the generic name *Tylenchus* Bastian, 1865; in 1936 Filipjev transferred it to *Ditylenchus*. Thus the homonymy is secondary.

In 1961 Meyl transferred Fuchs' *Tylenchus major* to this new genus *Neoditylenchus*. Fortuner and Maggenti accepted this (using as generic name the senior synonym *Sychmotylenchus* Rühm, 1956). So in their system the two species (*major* Fuchs, 1915 and *major* Thorne & Malek, 1968) are no longer congeneric: the homonymy is historical. Art. 59 (d) of the Rules (ed. 1985) states:

“ Revival of secondary homonyms. - A species-group name rejected after 1960 on grounds of homonymy is to be reinstated by any one who believes that the two species-group taxa in question are not congeneric, unless it is invalid for some other reason. (i) If in such a case a new replacement name (*nomen novum*) had been proposed to replace the secondary homonym, it becomes a junior objective synonym of the latter. ”

This applies to the present case:

- the homonymy is secondary (even on both sides);

- the name *major* Thorne & Malek, 1968 was rejected in 1987, i.e. after 1960;

- Fortuner and Maggenti consider *major* Fuchs, 1915 and *major* Thorne & Malek, 1968 not congeneric.

Conclusion: *Ditylenchus major* (Thorne & Malek, 1968) Fortuner & Maggenti, 1987 is a valid name; *D. maleki* Fortuner & Maggenti, 1987 is an objective junior synonym of *D. major* (Thorne & Malek, 1968).

D. major (Thorne & Malek, 1968) was given as valid name, with *D. maleki* as synonym, by Ebsary (1991), but he did not give comments or arguments.

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