

The correct name for a hummingbird subfamily

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ABSTRACT: The name *Topazini* appears to date from McGuire *et al.* (2009) as, *contra* Bock (1994), it was not introduced by Simon (1921); however, this name was not validly introduced by McGuire *et al.*, either. The correct name for a subfamily containing *Topaza* G. R. Gray, 1840 and *Florisuga*, Bonaparte 1850, is shown to be *Florisuginae* Bonaparte, 1853.

KEYWORDS: hummingbirds, *Florisuga*, *Topaza*, *Florisuginae*, *Topazini*, family-group names, the I.C.Z.N. Code, precedence.

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Dickinson and Remsen (2013) listed the hummingbird subfamily *Florisuginae* comprising just two genera: *Topaza* G. R. Gray, 1840 and *Florisuga*, Bonaparte 1850. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (I.C.Z.N., 1999) (the Code) deals with type genera in chapters 13 and 14. Article 64 establishes that the type genus of a family group name need not be the name of the oldest genus in the group. Where the family-group includes two or more proposed family names, the earliest name proposed has precedence (see Article 23 of the Code). However, the name *Topazini* was recently used by McGuire *et al.* (2009) and followed by Chesser *et al.* (2012: 575), raising the suggestion that *Florisuginae* was incorrect. Here, we determine which has priority.

For the union of the two above genera, two proposals of family group names supposedly concern us. These are *Florisuginae* Bonaparte, 1853 (see Bock, 1994: 143) and *Topazinae* Simon, 1921 (see Bock, 1994: 145). Simon's work was identified by Bock as the "*Histoire naturelle des Trochilidae (synopsis et catalogue)*" [sic], a work based on 30 years of study of the family. On page 151 in his "Synopsis" (pp. 1–244), Simon (1921) listed *Topaza* as his 27th "groupe" and this included just the one genus. In his "Catalogue" (pp. 245–407), on p. 353 there was again no group name that differed from the genus-group name. It is apparent that Simon ranked this at the same level as his other "groupes", of which there were 46 in total. However, Simon did not form subfamily or tribe names (Article 11.7 of the Code) and the name "*Topazinae*" cannot be attributed to this origin.

By contrast, Bonaparte (1853: 645) divided the Trochilidae into five subfamilies (*Grypinae*, *Phaethornithinae*, *Lampornithinae*, *Cynanthinae* and *Trochilinae*) and subdivided the latter into five tribes *Florisugeae*, *Amaziliae*, *Polytmeae*, *Trochileae* and *Mellisugeae*. Based on the termination -ini required by the Code, the name *Florisugeae* is now correctly listed as *Florisugini*, and if treated as a subfamily as *Florisuginae*.

Hartert (1900) provided a list of all the known species and accepted 118 genera. He did not propose any subfamilies or tribes or use those of Bonaparte (1853).

Peters (1945) did not offer subfamily names. Schuchmann (1999) accepted two subfamilies: *Phaethornithinae* and *Trochilinae*.

The casual use of *Topazini* by McGuire *et al.* (2009) without any of the requirements of Article 13 or Article 16 of the Code being met, means that the name remains unavailable, and that *Florisuginae* Bonaparte, 1853, as the oldest available name (Article 23), is the correct subfamily name for a clade that contains *Topaza* G. R. Gray, 1840, and *Florisuga*, Bonaparte 1850.

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