Allostaffia, a new genus name for Staffia Heinrich, 1999 (Allotheria, Haramiyida) preoccupied by Staffia Schubert, 1911 (Protista, Foraminifera)

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Abstract

The genus name Staffia Heinrich, 1999 published for a Jurassic allotherian mammal from Tendaguru, Tanzania, is preoccupied by Staffia Schubert, 1911 (Protista, Foraminifera). A replacement name, Allostaffia, is proposed here.

Key words: Taxonomy, nomenclature, Allotheria, Haramiyida, Staffia, Allostaffia, Upper Jurassic, Tendaguru, Gondwana

Zusammenfassung


Schlüsselwörter: Taxonomie, Nomenklatur, Allotheria, Haramiyida, Staffia, Allostaffia, Oberjura, Tendaguru, Gondwana

The name Staffia aenigmatica was proposed by Heinrich (1999) for the first haramiyid to be discovered in Gondwana. The taxon was named on the basis of an isolated cheek tooth, identified tentatively as a right lower posterior premolar (Heinrich 1999), recovered from the Upper Jurassic (Kimmeridgian-Tithonian) of Tendaguru in Tanzania, East Africa. Additional dental material, collected later from the same site was also assigned to this taxon (Heinrich 2001). This genus name was created to honour H. von Staff (1883–1915), who ran excavations of the German Tendaguru expedition in 1911.

Recently, Dr. Ch. F. Kammerer (in litt.) found that Staffia Heinrich, 1999 is preoccupied by the foraminiferan Staffia Schubert, 1911 and should be replaced according to the rules of the ICZN (1999). Therefore, I propose the substitute name Allostaffia. The replacement name is derived from the name of the German geologist and paleontologist H. von Staff and the Greek word for “different” or “other” (allós) referring to the systematic position of this genus within the allotherian mammals.

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References


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