

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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## GENERAL NOTES.

[46-47]

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A BEAR ANIMALCULE RENAMED.

In 1851 Dujardin (*Ann. des sci. nat. Ser. III, Vol. V. p. 164*) employed the name *Lydella* to designate a very remarkable, microscopic, marine creature apparently related to the bear animalcules. A specific name was not supplied until 1888, when Plate (*Zoölog. Jahrbücher. Morphol. Abth. Vol. III, p. 533*) called it *Lydella dujardini* in honor of its discoverer. Unfortunately *Lydella* is preoccupied. In 1830 Desvoidy employed it for a genus of flies, and again in 1835 Macquard used it in the same group. Thus doubly antedated, *Lydella*, as a genus of bear animalcules, must be abandoned. In its place I propose *Microlyda*.

It should be remarked in passing, that the name Tardigrada, so long and so generally employed for the group of which *Microlyda* is a member, is itself antedated. It was first used in the present connection, as a family name, by von Seibold as the Latin equivalent of Doyères' French appellation "les tardigrades," apparently not knowing that it had previously been used by Illiger (1811), Cuvier (1817), Burmeister (1830), and probably others for a group of mammals. In 1861 C. A. S. Schultze called attention to this and offered the family name Arctiscoida as a substitute. The case had been already provided for, however. Xenomorphida, established by Perty (*Isis von Oken, p. 1241, 1834*), as a family of crustaceans, included all the bear animalcules then known and nothing else. As both Arctiscoida and Xenomorphida were given as family names, other things being equal, they would have precisely the same claims for adoption as class or ordinal names. But since Arctiscoida is clearly antedated, Xenomorphida should be accepted as the name of the group.—*W. P. Hay.*