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Depaulacoutoia, a replacement name for Paulacoutoia Cifelli, 1983, a preoccupied name

Richard L. Cifelli^a & Edgardo Ortiz-Jaureguizar^b

^a Sam Noble Museum, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK 73072, U.S.A.

^b Laboratorio de Sistemática y Biología Evolutiva (LASBE), Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de la Plata, Paseo del Bosque S/N, B1900FWA, La Plata, Argentina

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DEPAULACOUTOIA, A REPLACEMENT NAME FOR *PAULACOUTOIA* CIFELLI, 1983,
A PREOCCUPIED NAME

RICHARD L. CIFELLI^{*1} and EDGARDO ORTIZ-JAUREGUIZAR²; ¹Sam Noble Museum, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK 73072, U.S.A., rlc@ou.edu; ²Laboratorio de Sistemática y Biología Evolutiva (LASBE), Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de la Plata, Paseo del Bosque S/N, B1900FWA, La Plata, Argentina, eortiz@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

A recent Internet search revealed the homonymy of the generic name *Paulacoutoia*, which was proposed by Cifelli (1983:3) for a South American didolodontid 'condylarth' of the Itaboraian South American Land Mammal Age (late Paleocene–early Eocene), whose type species *P. protocenica* was previously assigned by Paula Couto (1952) to *Ernestokokenia* Ameghino, 1901. This generic separation was confirmed by later studies (e.g., Cifelli, 1993; Gelfo, 2006, 2010; Gelfo and Sigé, 2011). Notwithstanding, the name *Paulacoutoia* was erected previously by Purper (1979) for a Miocene ostracod (Crustacea) genus (see Thompson Reuters, 2008; Global Name Index, 2010). Currently, *Paulacoutoia* is a junior objective synonym of the ostracod genus *Cyprideis* Jones, 1857 (see Muñoz-Torres et al., 1998; Whatley et al., 1998). Because the generic name *Paulacoutoia* is preoccupied, according to Articles 52, 53, and 60 of the current edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999), the name of the extinct didolodontid becomes a junior homonym, and it must be rejected and replaced.

We propose the name *Depaulacoutoia*, gen. nov., to replace *Paulacoutoia* Cifelli, 1983. An Internet search within the Index to Organism Names (Thompson Reuters, 2008), Global Name Index (2010), Zoological Record (2013), and Google Scholar revealed that the name *Depaulacoutoia* has not been used or cited in the scientific literature. This name is proposed to reflect the tribute made by Cifelli (1983:4) to the contributions of Carlos de Paula Couto (1910–1982) to knowledge of Brazilian fossil mammals. The name of the species of the monotypic genus *Depaulacoutoia* therefore becomes *Depaulacoutoia protocenica* (Paula Couto, 1952), comb. nov.

There is some question as to the whereabouts of the holotype of *D. protocenica*, MNRJ (Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro) 1430V. The specimen was adequately described and illustrated by Paula Couto (1952), but has not been seen by subsequent investigators (e.g., Cifelli, 1983; Gelfo, 2006). It may become necessary to designate a neotype for the species, as suggested by Gelfo (2006), if it can be definitively established that MNRJ 1430V is lost. In any case, the definitive characteristics of *D. protocenica* are well established by other referred specimens.

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*Corresponding author.