

Nomenclature Committee (Fauna)

MINUTES OF THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE MEETING (FAUNA)  
Geneva (Switzerland), 19 August (18h15-20h30) and 20 August 2003 (13h15-14h00)

Present:

Marinus Hoogmoed, Member (zoologist) of the Nomenclature Committee  
Ute Grimm, Germany  
Simon Nemtzov, Israel  
Jorge Alvarez, Mexico  
Rodrigo Medellin, Mexico  
Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, Mexico (partly)  
Michael Griffin, Namibia  
Andry Subbotin, Russian Federation  
Thea Carroll, South Africa  
Thomas Althaus, Switzerland  
Ruth Landolt, Switzerland  
Edson Chidziya, Zimbabwe  
Andy Bruckner, USA  
Nancy Daves, USA  
Robert Gabel, USA  
Amanda Vincent, Project Seahorse  
Anders Rhodin, Chelonian Research Foundation  
Ann Michels, Species Survival Network  
Cliona O'Brien, WWF UK  
Cristiana Senni, World Parrot Trust  
Daniela Freyer, Pro Wildlife  
Jaques Berney, IWMC – World Conservation Trust  
Karen Steuer, WWF US  
Mari Park, Environmental Investigation Agency  
Peter Dollinger, World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA)  
Peter Paul van Dijk, IUCN Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group  
Ron Orenstein, International Wildlife Coalition  
Susan Lieberman, WWF International  
Tim Inskipp, UNEP WCMC (Rapporteur)  
Jim Armstrong, CITES Secretariat (19<sup>th</sup>)  
Ger van Vliet, CITES Secretariat (20<sup>th</sup>)

**1. Opening**

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

**2. Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with several items added under Any Other Business.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting of the Nomenclature Committee (fauna) (San José, 8 April 2002)**

The minutes were adopted without change. It was noted that the checklist of *Cordylus* spp., which was adopted as a standard reference at CoP12, had not yet been published, but is available in printed version in the CoP 12 documentation.

**4. Current issues**

- a) Correspondence and reporting. Items under this heading were dealt with under specific headings below.

- b) *Varanus* checklist. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee noted that this had now been published: W. Böhme (2003) Checklist of the living monitor lizards of the world (family Varanidae). *Zoologische Verhandelingen* Leiden 341: 43 pp.
- c) Sea cucumbers. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee had had correspondence with the Secretariat relating to a proposal for listing a species of sea cucumber in Appendix III by Ecuador. It was agreed to list the species as *Isostichopus fuscus*, whilst noting the synonym *Stichopus fuscus*.
- d) Mock turtles. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee drew attention to disputes about the taxonomic status of several newly described *Cuora* species. It has been suggested that these may be hybrids rather than true species, but the currently available information is not conclusive. Peter Paul van Dijk noted that, additionally, *Mauremys iversoni* and *M. pritchardi*, may be hybrids (see AC19 Doc. 15.1 Annex).
- e) Mouflon. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee noted that the mouflon, which is not listed in the CITES Appendices, is treated as *O. aries musimon* in Wilson & Reeder (1993, *Mammal species of the world*). Elsewhere it has been suggested that this taxon should be treated preferably as *O. ammon musimon*, bringing it within the purview of CITES because of the listing of *Ovis ammon* on Appendix II. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee noted that a new edition of *Mammal species of the world* was due to be published soon and recommended that this issue be deferred until then. If this taxon is treated as a form of *O. ammon* in that work it will be necessary to state that it is not covered by the CITES listing, on the basis that it would alter the scope of the original listing.

## 5. Other issues

- a) Seahorse nomenclature. Decision 12.55, resulting from CoP12, states that 'The Nomenclature Committee shall propose a standard taxonomy for species in the genus *Hippocampus*'. Amanda Vincent introduced document NC3 Doc. 5 and referred to Lourie *et al.* (1999, *Seahorses: an identification guide to the world's species and their conservation*, and the second edition available on CD Rom) suggesting that this work should be put forward to CoP13 for adoption as the standard reference, with the addition of *Hippocampus denise* (Lourie, S. A. and Randall, J. E., 2003, A new pygmy seahorse, *Hippocampus denise* (Teleostei: Syngnathidae), from the Indo-Pacific. *Zoological Studies* 42: 284-291). The Member of the Nomenclature Committee endorsed this suggestion, agreeing that the former was the only global reference source for the genus. Tim Inskipp noted that ten other new species had been described since 1999 [Kuitert, R. H., 2001, Revision of the Australian seahorses of the genus *Hippocampus* (Syngnathiformes: Syngnathidae) with descriptions of nine new species. *Records of the Australian Museum* 53: 293-340 (9 spp.). Horne, M. L., 2001, A new seahorse species (Syngnathidae: *Hippocampus*) from the Great Barrier Reef. *Records of the Australian Museum* 53: 243-246 (1 sp.)] and that these had been added to the CITES Checklist because they were published names, even if their validity as species is in doubt. Amanda Vincent clarified that these taxa had not yet been evaluated but that some were undoubtedly synonyms. It was agreed that when the taxonomic status of these new taxa had been determined their listing in the Checklist would be amended.
- b) Standard nomenclature. Document AC19 Doc. 20.1 suggests that the process for adoption of new standard references for taxa in the Appendices needed revision, particularly in respect of the perceived need to adapt to the most recent scientific nomenclatural references. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee explained that it was not a requirement to constantly make changes when new references appeared, but that some changes had to be made occasionally to prevent the listings becoming very out of date. The representative of Germany supported this position and recommended that a sound balance between stability and change should be the aim. The representative of Mexico went further than this by suggesting that the basis for acceptance of the currently accepted standard references should be reviewed and that the most robust, rather than recent, appropriate references should be adopted.

- c) Parrot nomenclature. Document AC19 Doc. 20.2 suggests that the *Handbook of the birds of the world*, which had been adopted as a standard reference for the Psittacidae and Trochilidae was not a suitable reference because it was not peer-reviewed and was a popular rather than a scientific work. In addition, the document drew attention to the case of the *Amazona ochrocephala* complex, which under the new standard reference is treated as one species with six subspecies listed in Appendix I, as opposed to the old standard reference, where it was treated as three species, with two species listed in Appendix I. The document questioned the validity of subspecies as recognizable entities and recommended a review of the applicability of the newly adopted reference. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee supported the adoption of the *Handbook* as a standard reference for these two groups of birds, noting the parrot section had been compiled by a specialist in this group of birds, whereas the previously adopted standard had not been. Cristiana Senni noted that the *Amazona ochrocephala* issue was an identification problem rather than a nomenclatural one and, after further discussion, it was clear that there was no agreement that any change in the current listing or standard reference would improve the situation. However, the Member of the Nomenclature Committee agreed to propose a reversion to the three species concept at CoP13 if requested by the Parties.
- d) *Brachypelma*. The representative of Germany introduced document NC3 Doc. 2 and recommended that proposals to change *Brachypelmides klaasi* to *Brachypelma klaasi* and to include *Brachypelma ruhnaui* (synonym *Brachypelmides ruhnaui*) should be put forward to the next CoP, on the basis that *Brachypelmides* is now regarded as synonymous with *Brachypelma* by N. I. Platnick's *World Spider Catalogue* (Version 3, 2002) (<http://research.amnh.org/entomology/spiders/catalog81-87/THERAPHOSIDAE.html>). It was agreed to examine the basis for the inclusion of *Brachypelmides klaasi* in Appendix II in the relevant CITES documents to determine whether this could be used as a precedent for listing *B. ruhnaui*. It was suggested that this reference might be proposed for adoption as a standard reference for this group, treating it in a similar way to the web-based *Amphibian Species of the World*, but no decision was made.
- e) *Pandinus*. The representative of Germany introduced document NC3 Doc. 3 and recommended that W. R. Lourenço & J. C. Cloudsley-Thompson (1996, Recognition and distribution of the scorpions of the genus *Pandinus* Thorell, 1876 accorded protection by the Washington Convention. *Biogeographica* 72(3): 133-143.) be proposed for adoption as the standard reference for the three listed species of *Pandinus*, as this was more precise in terms of synonymy and distribution than V. Fet, W. D. Sissom, G. Lowe & M. E. Braunwalder [2000, *Catalog of the scorpions of the world (1758-1998)*], the reference mentioned in the Nomenclature Committee report presented to CoP12. This was agreed.
- f) *Tursiops aduncus*. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee introduced document NC Doc. 4, prepared by Robert L. Brownell, Jr, William F. Perrin, Randall R. Reeves and James G. Mead. The document summarized the evidence for treating the Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus* as a separate species from the Common Bottlenose Dolphin, noting that the new edition of *Mammal species of the world*, and D. W. Rice (1998, *Marine mammals of the world, systematics and distribution*) treats it as such. It was agreed that this change would be proposed at CoP13, along with other relevant changes included in the new edition if that work was available before the next meeting of the Nomenclature Committee.
- g) EU and new nomenclature. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee noted that the EU Member states had agreed in cases relating to listing changes adopted at CoP12 to add the new names to EC documents until the new Regulation was published.

Under this item Peter Dollinger noted that the exclusion of synonyms from the new format of the CITES Appendices was causing an implementation problem in Switzerland (and probably in other countries) because of incorporation of this information in Swiss law. The Secretariat explained that the previously listed synonyms were only a small number of the available synonyms for the species in the appendices and that reintroducing them would be unlikely to solve this problem.

They suggested that Parties that had criticisms of the new format of the appendices should communicate them to the Secretariat.

- h) There was much discussion on the functioning, structure and terms of reference of the Nomenclature Committee.

#### **6. Comments on Checklist of species included in the CITES Appendices**

Several representatives commented on the lack of names of authors and years of publication for the species in the Checklist, suggesting that it would make it more useful if these were included. Tim Inskipp explained that these data are available on the UNEP WCMC website, where the species database reflects the contents of the Checklist, and stated that they could be included in the next edition of the Checklist if the Parties requested it.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

- a) *Poicephalus robustus*. The representative of South Africa noted that the proposal to split this species into two species was not being pursued at present because a detailed study of the situation had not examined one important population in South Africa that might link the two proposed species.
- b) *Testudo weissingeri*. The representative of Germany explained that this species had been described twice, the first time as a subspecies and the second time as a species with an identical epithet. The taxon had unfortunately been included in the CITES Checklist as a species but this would be corrected in the next edition, where it would be treated as a subspecies/synonym of *Testudo marginata*.
- c) CITES potential taxonomic and nomenclatural revisions. A document prepared by Tim Inskipp was introduced. This listed alternative taxonomic treatments to those adopted by CITES, along with relevant references. These were not intended to be the subject of proposals for change at this stage, but were included so that they would not be overlooked when future relevant revisions are proposed. This was an ongoing document for which corrections and additions were requested.

#### **8. Closure**

The two parts of the meeting were closed at 20h30 on 19 August and at 14h00 on 20 August.