

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

NOMENCLATURAL MATTERS

1. This document has been prepared by the specialist on zoological nomenclature¹.

New Appendices following the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15)

2. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of new nomenclature standard references for several animal groups. The specialist on zoological nomenclature of the Animals Committee assisted in the tremendous work that had to be carried out by the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC in order to implement the decisions of the CoP by developing the new Appendices and the new Checklist of CITES Species.

General nomenclatural issues identified after CoP15

3. *Crocodylus johnsoni* / *Crocodylus johnstoni*
As outlined in the report compiled by UNEP-WCMC (Annex 3, section Reptilia/Crocodylia) a publication has been identified providing arguments for returning to the species name *Crocodylus johnstoni* instead of the spelling of *Crocodylus johnsoni*, currently valid under CITES. The AC representative for Oceania has transmitted a request to recommend this change as in Australia *Crocodylus johnstoni* is the commonly used name. This spelling change was already proposed by the US at CoP15 and not disputed by anyone. However, it was not recorded because it was not formally put to the vote. Now an interim finding has been requested to be notified to the Parties (such as Notification 2008/051) to help Australia to export products under the name of *Crocodylus johnstoni*.
4. *Uromastyx* spp.
A major new taxonomic publication on the whole genus *Uromastyx* has been published between AC24 and CoP15². As it had not been available for discussion at the AC meetings preceding CoP15 it could not be considered at the last CoP meeting. The nomenclature specialist recommends to consider this publication as new nomenclature standard reference for the species currently listed in the CITES Appendices as *Uromastyx* spp. Major changes to the current CITES taxonomy are the resurrection of the genus *Saara* for the species *asmussi*, *hardwickii* and *loricata*, lumping *U. leptieni* to *U. aegyptia* (as subspecies of the latter), and the description of two new species *U. nigriventris* (former subspecies of *U. acanthinurus*) and *U. shobraki* (former subspecies of *U. yemenensis*). As this publication is a scientific taxonomic revision and written in English it seems much better suited as nomenclature standard reference for *Uromastyx* spp. than the current WILMS' reference of 2001 which is more a handbook (though containing solid taxonomic information) and written in German. If the resurrection of the genus *Saara* is not widely accepted until

¹ The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

² WILMS, T.M., BÖHME, W., WAGNER, P., LUTZMANN, N. & SCHMITZ, A. (2009): On the phylogeny and taxonomy of the genus *Uromastyx* MERREM, 1820 (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae: Uromastycinae) – resurrection of the genus *Saara* GRAY, 1820. – *Bonner zool. Beiträge*, 56(1-2): 55-99.

CoP16 the new reference could easily be combined with the note “ for *Uromastyx* spp., however, with the retention of the species *Uromastyx asmussi*, *Uromastyx hardwickii*, and *Uromastyx loricata*”.

5. Varanidae

The current basic nomenclature standard reference for the Varanidae is BÖHME (2003)³ in combination with seven further publications with 10 new species described after the publication of BÖHME (2003). For the time being five more new species have been described (see Annex 3, section Reptilia/Sauria). The nomenclature specialist suggests to consider to recommend BÖHME (2003) in combination with KOCH, AULIYA & ZIEGLER (2010)⁴ as new nomenclature standard reference which would cover all species adopted by the CoPs so far, and, in addition, the five new species described but not yet adopted by a CoP. This would reduce the number of references from 12 to 2 – thus simplifying the list of standard references even if until AC26 further new *Varanus* species may be described and considered for adoption.

6. Snakes

The CITES Asian snake trade workshop that took place April 11-14 2011 in Guangzhou (China) has developed some recommendations with regard to the taxonomy of certain snake species which are reflected in Annex 1.

Comments to the species mentioned in Annex 1:

- *Gongylophis conicus* (as well as *G. colubrinus* and *G. muelleri*) are valid taxa under CITES since the adoption of MCDIARMID, CAMPBELL & TOURÉ (1999)⁵ as nomenclature standard reference for the snake family Boidae at CoP10 in 1997 (based on a draft of that publication). If *Gongylophis conicus* is reversed to *Eryx conicus* then the other two *Gongylophis* species must be placed back into the genus *Eryx* as well.
- The *Naja* taxa listed in the workshop's recommendation are currently regarded as valid species [see WÜSTER 1996 in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15)].
- The other taxa changes mentioned in the recommendations of the workshop are also part of the UNEP-WCMC compilation of new taxonomic changes identified since AC24 (see Annex 3, section Reptilia/Serpentes).

7. *Agalychnis* spp.

The current nomenclature standard reference for most amphibians, [Taxonomic Checklist of CITES-listed Amphibians of 2004 \(downloadable from the CITES homepage\)](#), does not cover the newly listed species of the genus *Agalychnis*. The nomenclature specialist has therefore contacted the Scientific Authority of Mexico in order to develop together a proposal for a nomenclature standard reference for this genus to be finally discussed at AC26 and a recommendation to be found for CoP16. It will be necessary as well to take into account which general recommendation will be taken by the AC regarding the various taxonomic changes published mainly in 2004 and 2006 for quite a number of amphibian species, not recommended for adoption by AC24, and based on this recommendation also not adopted by CoP15. (for details on these changes see Amphibian section in Annex 3).

8. Fish species

Apart from the nomenclature standard references for the genus *Hippocampus* the reference for all other fish species published 1998⁶ is outdated. For quite a number of years already, this catalogue has been turned into an online reference [ESCHMEYER, W. N. & Fricke, R. (eds.) Catalog of Fishes electronic version (5 May 2011)⁷]. As online-databases cannot directly serve as a formal nomenclature standard reference for CITES listed species as they are continuously changed, the nomenclature specialist offers to produce an extract from this database (similar to the ones for amphibian and spider species) based on the ESCHMEYER online catalogue for fish species. This checklist could be placed on the CITES homepage and easily updated based on the decisions taken at the CoPs (as regularly done for amphibian and spider species). A sample of how this extract would look like is given in Annex 2.

³ BÖHME, W. (2003): Checklist of the living monitor lizards of the world (family Varanidae) – Zoologische Verhandlungen. Leiden, 341 1-43.

⁴ KOCH, A., AULIYA, M. & ZIEGLER, T. (2010): Updated checklist of the living monitor lizards of the world (Squamata: Varanidae). – Bonn zool. Bull., 57(2): 127-136.

⁵ MCDIARMID, R.W., CAMPBELL, J.A. & TOURÉ, T.A. (1999): Snake Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference. Volume 1, Washington, DC. (The Herpetologists' League).

⁶ ESCHMEYER, W.N. (1998): Catalog of Fishes. 3 vols. California Academy of Sciences.

⁷ <http://research.calacademy.org/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>.

New nomenclatural changes in CITES listed animal species identified since AC24

9. Thanks to funds provided by the European Commission once again UNEP-WCMC has been able to provide a report on new species and other taxonomic changes with regard to the species listed in the EC wildlife trade regulations which include all CITES species. This report has been made available and is added to this document as Annex 3.

Nomenclatural tasks referred to the Animals Committee by CoP15

10. Nomenclatural tasks submitted to the AC by CoP15

Decision 15.62 b)

If nomenclature changes are identified affecting Appendix-III listings, the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee should advise the Secretariat whether these changes also result in changes in distribution affecting the countries issuing certificates of origin.

refers to continuous advisory activities of the nomenclature specialist and not a single time-limited one that will be finished with the next CoP. Therefore it should be considered by the AC whether it would not be better to recommend a respective amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.11 at the occasion of the next CoP. This task could easily be added after letter f) in the Recommendation section of Resolution Conf. 12.11.

Decision 15.63 requests the Animals and Plants Committee in a first step to

conduct an analysis to identify taxa listed in the Appendices that can be included under the name of a higher taxon without altering the scope of the listing, to be consistent with the section on "Higher taxa" in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)...

This is quite an extensive task that cannot be done by the nomenclature specialist alone. The task is not only very time-consuming but also needs the constant feed back with the adopted nomenclature standard references.

With the assistance of PETER PAUL VAN DIJK (IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group), a first analysis has been carried out by the nomenclature specialist for the CITES listed Testudines (see Annex 4). Other major animal groups that need to be analysed as well at least are Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia (other than Testudines), and Amphibia. The nomenclature specialist suggests therefore to ask for volunteers to intersessionally carry out these analyses for the other animal groups mentioned above so that the result can be discussed at the 26th meeting of the AC with further steps recommended according to the second part of Decision 15.63.

Decision 15.64 a) requests the AC to

identify existing coral reference materials that could be adopted as nomenclature standard references for CITES-listed corals.

The references currently used by UNEP-WCMC when compiling the Checklist of CITES Species are shown in Annex 5.

Recommendations for work of the Nomenclature Working Group at AC25

11. It is suggested:

- to have a first discussion on all new nomenclatural changes identified in this paper to identify possible problems of their adoption, however, defer a final recommendation to the 26th meeting of the Animals committee as it may well be that more background information will be available until then.

In addition specific recommendations need to be developed for

- the request of Oceania regarding *Crocodylus johnsoni*/*Crocodylus johnstoni*; and
- whether an updated extract from the respective online-database for amphibian and fish species should be prepared for the 26th meeting of the AC.

Decisions 15.62, 15.63 and 15.64 a)

- it is suggested to develop recommendations on how to deal with these tasks in order to enable the Animals Committee to decide upon respective recommendations at its 26th meeting.