

ZOOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Volume 4

PREFACE

Our regular readers will have noted that we continue to postpone seeking funding through subscriptions and, while we claim that our papers *will* be provided on an Open Access basis six months after publication, we said that the papers in volume 3 would be Open Access from the day of publication; we are now extending this policy for another volume. We do not seek page charges from our authors so there is no on-going income at all to support this publication.

This problem is rooted in the *occasional* nature of publication. Even publishing single articles when ready rather than waiting to fill a 40 page 'issue' has not materially changed the problem: our chosen subject matter is relatively esoteric and writers on the subject are few. However, we do now have a track record of publishing three volumes (184 pp., 172 pp. and 162 pp.) over the period from 30 November 2010 to 30 November 2015. We also now have several other papers committed to us which suggest that we have a good chance of producing a volume every two years. We also have some competition so perhaps the subject is gaining in popularity. It may be co-incidental that earlier this year "*Priority! The dating of scientific names in ornithology*" won the 2014 John Thackray Medal of the Society for the History of Natural History.

Within the last week or two we have republished Articles 1 to 4 from volume 3. We have done this as a matter of policy, having decided that we should register every article we publish in ZooBank now that our print edition has ceased. The PDFs now available as downloads carry new dates of publication – all later than the date of record of Article 5 – and they all use the central footer space to carry the LSID¹ issued by ZooBank. We handle these registrations with ZooBank because we believe this to be our responsibility.

You may wonder whether the original issues should still be cited. If there is no concern about an impact from the ICZN's revision of the Code to clarify its stance on electronic publication (see I.C.Z.N., 2012), i.e. if the original contained no new names and no nomenclatural acts then the Code does not change the fact that the original paper was citable. If there is any such impact however the republished version should be cited.

The specific trigger for this was our registration of Article 5, because it contains a First Reviser action. It also contains corrections to authorship as well as source publication and dates of publication: these are not nomenclatural acts spelled out in the ICZN Code, but if ZooBank is to be an accurate resource, which we sincerely hope it intends to become, it must take data verification seriously. To remind our readers, and the ICZN, of this we began, with volume 3, Article 5, the use of a footnoted series running title "ZB Contribution No. _ to the

¹ Life Science Identifier. www.zoobank.org/help.

ZooBank verification process". Of course we should have used this before but 'better late than never'.

Readers of our Article 5 may have noted near its end the statistic showing Sherborn had an error rate of 43%. Like all statistics this must be interpreted with care! It is likely that his error rate in the *Index Animalium* is no more than 2% but in the special case of part-works where the plates appeared before the text (and where those plates had a caption including a scientific name) Sherborn was a victim of his working practice. When working on a book that included multiple new names it is logical, and evidence supports this, that he worked through the book creating the cards for each new name and that he kept those cards together. They probably stayed together until about 1921 when he needed to arrange his thousands of cards in alphabetical order. At that point it became almost impossible for him to change his set policy, and, as explained in Article 5, although Sherborn (1923: viii-ix) recognised in his Preface that his previous policy of setting aside such plates was no longer tenable he could not revisit the scattered cards from the several works where captioned plates preceded gatherings of text pages.

Our Editorial Board is listed on our website. It now includes Dr Ray Williams and lacks Dr Neal Evenhuis, who left us to set up a competing journal.

Volume 3 did not include any Notes such as the Recent Publications lists that featured in volumes 1 and 2. We hope to restart these within volume 4, using pages with small Roman numerals with the idea that there may be more than one such Note in a volume and that they could be stored together. We are also open to publishing appropriate reviews.

REFERENCES

I.C.Z.N. (2012). Amendment of Articles 8, 9, 10, 21 and 78 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* to expand and refine methods of publication. – *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 69(3): 161-169.

Sherborn, C. D. (1922). *Index animalium sive index nominum quae ab A.D. MDCCLVIII generibus et speciebus animalium imposita sunt. 1801-1850. I. A – Aff.* Pp. i-cxxxi, 1-128. – London, Trustees of the British Museum.

Edward Dickinson
Acting Editor

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