



Incorporation of nomina of higher-ranked taxa into the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*: the nomenclatural status of class-series zoological nomina published in a non-latinized form

ALAIN DUBOIS

Reptiles & Amphibiens, UMR 7205 OSEB, Département Systématique & Evolution, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, CP 30, 25 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France. E-mail: adubois@mnhn.fr

Abstract

Many new higher-ranked taxa are currently recognized by taxonomists as a result of the numerous phylogenetic hypotheses which are regularly published. The absence in the *Code of Rules* for the nomenclature of taxa above the rank superfamily (class-series nomenclature) is a factor of growing chaos in zoological taxonomy. This is why Dubois (2005) proposed a set of formal Rules for this nomenclature, which should be discussed and considered for incorporation into the *Code*. This paper focuses on a particular point regarding these proposed Rules, i.e., whether class-series nomina should be considered nomenclaturally available from their first publication in any modern language, provided they were latinized subsequently, or only from their first use in a latinized form. It is argued that the first solution should be retained, not only “to render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s”, but also for simple internal consistency within the *Code*. According to the Rules of the *Code*, generic nomina may be available, with their original authors and dates, even if directly transferred unchanged from modern languages, and family-series nomina, first published in a non-latinized form, may be available, with their original authors and dates, provided they have been subsequently latinized. These general statements are illustrated with the higher nomenclature of several taxa including amphibians. According to the proposed Rules, the following nomina, authors and dates are the valid ones for the taxa they designate: **VERTEBRATA** Cuvier, 1800; **AMPHIBIA** De Blainville, 1816; **GYMNOPHIONA** Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1814; **BATRACHIA** Brongniart, 1800; **ANURA** Duméril, 1806; **URODELA** Duméril, 1806; **AMPHIPNEUSTA** Merrem, 1820.

Key words: Higher-ranked taxa, class-series nomenclature, *Code*, nomenclatural availability, non-latinized nomina, amphibians.

Typographical conventions. – In the text below, species-series and genus-series nomina (see Dubois 2000) are printed, as usual, in lower case *italics*, whereas nomina of higher-ranked taxa are written in small capitals, with the following distinction: family-series nomina are in *ITALICS*, and class-series nomina in **BOLD**. Nomenclaturally unavailable nomina (anoplonyms) (see Dubois 2000) are presented “between quotation marks”. “Vernacular” nomina, i.e. nomina that are not Latin or latinized, are presented underlined. “The ICZN” refers to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, and “the *Code*” refers to the fourth edition, currently in force, of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Anonymous 1999), which is here quoted as “Anonymous” for reasons explained in Dubois (2008b).

General statements

The zoological nomenclatural *Code* governs the creation, allocation and validity of the scientific names or *nomina* referred to three “groups of names” or *nominal-series*, namely the *species-*, *genus-* and *family-series*, but fails to deal with the nomina of higher-ranked taxa of the *class-series* such as classes or orders (Dubois