



Recommendations about nomenclature for papers submitted to *Zootaxa*

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The rapid success of *Zootaxa* has been due in part to the decentralization of its editorial process and to the taxonomic specialization of members of the editorial board (Zhang 2010). Both these factors allowed a quicker publication of papers than in many other journals, after an appropriate review by editors well acquainted with the taxa covered and the relevant literature.

This success also has some drawbacks. In 2009, for example, *Zootaxa* published 1488 papers occupying more than 27,000 pages, a volume that few persons, if any, could read exhaustively. Therefore, neither the chief editor nor any other member of the editorial board was able to check in a timely manner the correct application of the Rules of the *International Code on Zoological Nomenclature* (the “Code”: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999) in all papers published in the journal. The expertise of the subject editors of *Zootaxa* in this domain is varied, so the journal publishes some papers which are not *Code*-compliant in some respects. This can result in new nomina (scientific names) published in *Zootaxa* being either nomenclaturally unavailable or invalid, or new nomenclatural acts being invalid, which requires the publication of a correction or addition. To limit the occurrence of such unfortunate situations, we provide here some guidelines about nomenclature for manuscripts submitted to *Zootaxa*, concentrating on the most often encountered problems.

The so-called fourth edition of the *Code* (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999), which is currently in effect, changed some articles from the so-called third edition (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1985). It is essential to follow the edition of the *Code* now in force. Authors and editors of *Zootaxa* are strongly advised to have their own copy of the current *Code*, which is also available freely on line (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted-sites/iczn/code/>).

We provide below a survey of some major Rules of the *Code* that must be followed for a new nomen or nomenclatural act to be available and/or valid. We also provide some advice about recommendations of the *Code* and good practices that, if followed, facilitate the interpretation of nomenclatural matters or the future nomenclatural acts of subsequent authors.

Rules of the *Code* that must be followed in any paper submitted to *Zootaxa*

Compulsory designation of name-bearing types or onomatophores

For a new nomen to be nomenclaturally available (and therefore potentially valid), its name-bearing type (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999) or onomatophore (Simpson 1940) must be explicitly designated in the original publication. If this is missing, the nomen is nomenclaturally unavailable and cannot be used in zoology. It can be made available later on by the same or another author, by providing the missing information, but then it will date from the subsequent publication. This Rule applies in the three groups of names (or nominal-series) recognized by the *Code*, those of families, genera and species.

For the nomina of species and subspecies, a holotype or syntypes must be explicitly fixed in the original publication (Art. 16.4). Nomina of new species described after 1999 without this information are unavailable. Deposition of type specimens in a permanent collection such as a museum is not compulsory (see Dubois &