

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

ADOPTED BY THE
XX GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**CODE
INTERNATIONAL
de
NOMENCLATURE
ZOOLOGIQUE
TROISIEME EDITION**

adopté par la

**XXe
ASSEMBLEE GENERALE
de l'UNION
INTERNATIONALE
DES SCIENCES
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**INTERNATIONAL
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THIRD EDITION**

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**XX
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature presents in this third edition of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* a thoroughly revised Code that nevertheless retains the same format and sequence — with minor exceptions — as the first two editions (1961, 1964)¹.

Preparation of the third edition started in 1973 when experience of more than a decade in the use of the Code, and experience of amendments adopted subsequently, was reviewed in detail by members of the Commission and other zoologists during the XVIIIth General Assembly of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) at Ustaoset, Norway.

It became clear that a more extensive revision would be desirable than one merely incorporating amendments. An Editorial Committee charged with drafting the new edition was appointed in 1973 by W. D. L. Ride, then President of the Commission, who served also as Chairman of the Committee and continued as such when the Committee was reconstituted in 1977 by President Sabrosky. This Committee, and committees and individuals who have assisted it, have laboured faithfully to produce an unambiguous and carefully constructed text.

A draft incorporating all major changes proposed up to that time was published in November 1977 for comment by zoologists. In addition, beginning in November 1977, proposals for major changes that required votes by the Commission were published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* at least one year in advance of voting.

Many zoologists submitted comments. After due consideration of these, and appropriate changes, approved proposals were recommended by the Commission to the Section on Nomenclature and the Division of Zoology at the XXth General Assembly of IUBS at Helsinki in 1979. They were adopted in principle with the proviso that the wording of the Editorial Committee's final draft be subject to approval by the Commission. That approval has now been given.

As working members of both Editorial Committees, we know how hard our colleagues have striven, through a succession of fourteen drafts, and lengthy correspondence and various meetings, to produce the present edition. To them (G. Bernardi, J. O. Corliss, J. Forest, K. H. L. Key, R. V. Melville, and C. W. Wright of the first Committee;

¹ For a statement of the principles of zoological nomenclature and the Code, zoologists are referred to Professor J. Chester Bradley's thoughtful "Preface to the First Edition" and for a detailed history of the development of the first edition of the Code to Dr Norman Stoll's "Introduction". Both are repeated in the second edition.

Preface

G. Bernardi and R. V. Melville of the second Committee), to the Commissioners who have participated in the discussions, and to all zoologists who have commented on our proposals in print or in correspondence, we offer warmest thanks. In particular, and on behalf of the Commission, we recognize, here, that the contribution made by the following merits special notice. These are: K. H. L. Key, for helping to produce an extensively rewritten first draft as a basis for the Committee's work and for careful criticism of the penultimate draft; L. B. Holthuis and I. W. B. Nye, whose diligent work to develop a precise Glossary revealed many difficult issues and resulted in trenchant comments on the text of various drafts, and who also, with the great help of Sheila Halsey, carried out the laborious but essential task of developing the Index; to J. Forest, for special assistance with the equivalent French text of the Code; and to Richard Melville, who, as well as being a member of both Editorial Committees, as Secretary to the Commission and Scientific Controller of the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, bore the brunt of publishing all proposals and many comments, conducted the subsequent votes and saw the work through the press. In addition, we are particularly grateful for the patience of Mrs Kris Erwood and Mrs Margaret Stone, who prepared the many drafts.

We also express our appreciation for the material support given by the organizations to which the Committee members and the cited individuals belong. Our grateful thanks are also offered to the Trustees and the Director of the British Museum (Natural History) for accommodation for the Secretariat and meetings of the Editorial Committee, to Commissioner Brinck for making available the Stenoffa Field Station of the University of Lund for a special one-week meeting of the Commission for in-depth discussion of the major problems involved in the new edition, to the Nuffield Trust for making possible one of the meetings, and to Sir Peter Kent, the Curry Trust, and the French Ministry of Cultural Affairs for grants or loans to underwrite the publication of this third edition, and to the Royal Society and the International Union of Biological Sciences for general support.

The edition presented now has been amended extensively in minor ways of punctuation, choice of words, and word order. Although these editorial changes were not subject to the full notification procedure required for proposed amendments regarded as major, they are of great importance because they greatly affect comprehensibility and remove ambiguity.

In presenting this new edition of the Code we are confident that the amendments incorporated in this edition will remove ambiguity and bring clarification to previously obscure measures as well as introducing into the Code some new rules that will modernize it and

Preface

assist taxonomists whose problems were not foreseen in earlier editions. This is particularly true of some specialized modern fields such as aspects of microbiology. On the other hand, the Editorial Committee regrets that it has had to put aside a number of difficult problems for further in-depth study and future consideration. These include questions of parataxa, the status of Official Lists, and certain problems of publication.

No Code is perfect. None will please everyone. Indeed, it is unlikely that any Code would be completely satisfactory to any individual. But the Committee and the Commission believe that this third edition is a noteworthy improvement over the previous editions and they commend it to zoologists.

W. D. L. RIDE, President (1973–77, 1983–)

CURTIS W. SABROSKY, President (1977–83)

*The International Commission on
Zoological Nomenclature*

INTRODUCTION

"Like all language, zoological nomenclature reflects the history of those who have produced it, and is the result of varying and conflicting practices. Some of our nomenclatural usage has been the result of ignorance, of vanity, obstinate insistence on following individual predilections, much, like that of language in general, of national customs, prides, and prejudices.

Ordinary languages grow spontaneously in innumerable directions; but biological nomenclature has to be an exact tool that will convey a precise meaning for persons in all generations".

J. Chester Bradley. Preface to the 1st edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 1961.

The 3rd edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature like its preceding editions and, before them, the "*Règles internationales de la Nomenclature zoologique*", has one fundamental aim, which is to provide the maximum universality and continuity in the scientific names of animals compatible with the freedom of scientists to classify animals according to taxonomic judgments.

The Code consists of provisions and recommendations designed to enable zoologists to arrive at names for taxa that are correct under particular taxonomic circumstances. Its use enables a zoologist to determine the valid name for a taxon to which an animal belongs at any rank in the hierarchy subspecies, species, genus, and family (including subgenus and ranks of the family group such as subfamily and tribe). The Code provides no rules for use below the rank of subspecies, nor above the rank of superfamily.

The key elements basic to the structure of the Code, and of zoological nomenclature generally, are the following:

- (1) The Code refrains from infringing upon taxonomic judgement, which must not be made subject to regulation or restraint.
- (2) Nomenclature does not determine the rank to be accorded to any group of animals but, rather, provides the name that is to be used for the taxon at whatever rank it is placed.
- (3) Names are allocated to taxa without infringing upon taxonomic judgement by means of the device of name-bearing types. Every name regulated by the Code (except for the names of "collective groups" and ichnotaxa at the generic level) is permanently attached to a name-bearing type. At the

ranks of the species group this name-bearing type is a single specimen or a group of specimens (that collectively constitute the name-bearer); at ranks of the genus group it is a nominal species; at ranks of the family group it is a nominal genus. Accordingly, when a taxon at any rank is delineated by a taxonomist it may contain several name-bearing types, each with a name that is available for use at that rank. The Principle of Priority operates to determine which from among the synonyms (if there is more than one name) is the valid name.

- (4) The Code recognises that the rigid application of the Principle of Priority may, in certain cases, upset a long-accepted name in its accustomed meaning through the validation of a little known, or even long-forgotten, name. Nomenclatural rules are tools that are designed to provide the maximum stability compatible with taxonomic freedom. Accordingly they must also enable the Principle of Priority to be set aside in particular cases when the application of the Principle would be destructive of stability or universality, or would cause confusion. The Code contains provisions that enable the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to set aside, in such cases, the automatic operation of the Code whether that operation concerns the establishment of a name, the fixation of a name-bearing type, the spelling of a name, or any other matter.
- (5) To avoid ambiguity, the use of the same name for different taxa must not occur and is prohibited. This is the Principle of Homonymy.
- (6) The Code provides guidance for zoologists needing to establish new names, and rules to determine whether any name, previously proposed, is available and with what priority; whether the name requires amendment for its correct use, and to enable its name-bearing type to be ascertained (and, when necessary, to establish one for it).
- (7) The Code also provides for its interpretation and administration, when necessary, by prescribing the establishment and operation of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and the conditions under which the Code may be amended.
- (8) There is no "case law" in zoological nomenclature. Problems in nomenclature are decided through the application of the Code, and never by reference to precedent. If the Commission is called on to render an Opinion or Direction in a particular case, the decision relates to that case alone.

Introduction

The origin of an internationally accepted Code of Rules for Zoological Nomenclature may be found in the confusion of names that occurs in the zoological literature of the early part of the 19th century. Following the publication of the 10th edition of the *Systema Naturae* by Linnaeus in 1758, and his adoption in it of binominal names for species of animals, the next century saw the new system expanded and developed in different places, and in different ways for different animal groups. By the second quarter of the 19th century disparate usages were common and the need for regulation had become everywhere apparent.

Moreover, the great explosion in known species, resulting from the growth of Science and from active scientific exploration in countries outside Europe, resulted in a multiplicity of names and of synonyms.

The most important of the early attempts to regulate zoological nomenclature was by Hugh Edwin Strickland. It developed into what has since been called the British Association Code or the Stricklandian Code. Its official title was "Series of Propositions for Rendering the Nomenclature of Zoology Uniform and Permanent". Following its presentation at the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1842, by a Committee that included such distinguished zoologists as Charles Darwin, Richard Owen, and J. O. Westwood, that code was translated and circulated widely. It had great influence. It was published in France, Italy, and the United States of America. It was adopted by the Scientific Congress at Padua in 1843, by the American Society of Geologists and Naturalists in 1845, and by the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1846. It was revised in succeeding years and provided the basis for the Douvillé Code (1882) adopted internationally by geologists and the American Ornithologists' Union Code (1883).

Following activity at International Congresses of Geology (Paris, 1878; Bologna, 1881) it became clear that international agreement was desirable for rules to cover all zoological names irrespective of which bodies or disciplines required to use them. At the First International Congress of Zoology (Paris, 1889), the Congress adopted, in part, rules drawn up by Professor Raphael Blanchard and referred the matter for discussion at the II Congress (Moscow, 1892). The III Congress (Leyden, 1895) appointed an international commission of five zoologists (R. Blanchard, J. V. Carus, F. A. Jentink, P. L. Sclater, and C. W. Stiles) to report to the IV Congress (Cambridge, England, 1898). Following the addition of further members, and further consideration, a report was adopted by the V Congress (Berlin, 1901) and the code embodying the decision of that Congress was published in French, English and German in 1905. This code, entitled "*Règles internationales de la Nomenclature zoologique*",

Introduction

with a series of amendments resulting from subsequent Congresses (Boston, 1907; Monaco, 1913; Budapest, 1929; Padua, 1930) remained in force until 1961 when it was replaced in its entirety by the first edition of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* that resulted from studies at Congresses following the 1939–45 War (Paris, 1948; Copenhagen, 1953; and London, 1958). A very detailed account of the work that culminated in the 1961 edition is given by Norman R. Stoll, Chairman of the Editorial Committee, in his Introduction to that Edition.

The XVII International Congress of Zoology (Monaco, 1972) appeared to most zoologists to be the last general Congress of Zoology and some decisions were taken to amend the 1961 Code at that Congress. But the most important decision taken was to transfer responsibility for future Codes (and the Commission) from the International Zoological Congresses to the International Union of Biological Sciences and, thereby, to ensure mechanisms for continuity and future up-dating.

Responsibility for the Code and the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature was accepted by IUBS at the XVIII General Assembly (Ustaaset, Norway, 1973) and as a result of extensive discussions at that Assembly, an editorial committee was appointed by the Commission to revise the Code. Proposals for major and substantive changes were published from time to time; and a complete draft of the Code incorporating proposed amendments was published in 1977 and circulated for comment by zoologists. The final text of the third edition, including decisions on those matters by the Commission and extensive rewording in the interests of clarity, was approved by the Commission, with the authority of IUBS, late in 1983 and is published herewith.

The modern *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* is a very complex document. In part this complexity results from the close relationships and interdependence of different parts of it, and also because it must maintain the validity of actions, and the continued use of names, resulting from earlier, less satisfactory, standards of description and publication. Many of these names are products of the unregulated period before the *Règles*. For instance the application of the principle of name-bearing types, seen to be so fundamental today to the objective identification of names and for establishing synonymy, was not introduced into the rules for genus-group names until the Budapest Congress in 1927. Even today, although the principle is fundamental, it is still not obligatory for name-bearing types to be designated for new species-group taxa although the Code recommends the practice and provides procedures by which the name-bearing type of any species-group taxon can be discovered or fixed.

Introduction

Because of the extent to which the provisions of the Code are interdependent, contradictory provisions and different wordings leading to conflicting interpretations can arise easily. Accordingly, its language must be precise; identical words and phrases must be used and re-used, and there must be extensive cross-referencing. To many zoologists, these requirements result in tedious and pedantic prose that will even seem unduly legalistic to some. We make no apologies for the wording chosen because we believe that interpretation must be beyond doubt even at the expense of elegance. Also to reduce ambiguity, the Glossary has been made part of the Code. When a meaning is given in the Glossary, it is that meaning that must be used in interpretation.

Whether the Committee has succeeded in achieving the aim of providing a Code that can be interpreted easily by most practising taxonomists, only its application will tell. It is sobering to think that all who have drafted previous editions of the Code, and its predecessors, have hoped for the same.

Where experience has shown that some rearrangement of material from that in the previous editions would be desirable, we have done it. Otherwise, the third edition follows the arrangement of the first two.

To those accustomed to earlier editions of the Code, identifying major substantive changes introduced into this edition will be of particular interest. These are given, together with the results of the Commission's voting and comments, in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Vol. 34, pp. 167–173; Vol. 36, pp. 66–72, 209–222; Vol. 37, pp. 196–215; Vol. 38, pp. 10–48, 238).

Most of the major changes in the new edition are changes introduced for technical nomenclatural reasons, mostly to remove uncertainty and to complete earlier provisions. In addition, a number have resulted from the changing nature of science and technology. Some issues, although explored by the Commission, have not been settled and still remain to be decided in the future.

Although the proposals were editorial, the Editorial Committee referred to the Commission three major stylistic changes that it considered should be voted upon rather than merely adopted by the Committee. Since these would have made extensive changes to the language of the Code and zoological nomenclature, it was thought that the Commission as a whole should decide upon them. Finally, as a result of extensive debate it was decided not to adopt them. Further exploration of the issues is clearly necessary.

The first proposal was to provide a single word for the different categories of types that could be applied equally to all name bearers irrespective of rank. The word "type" is often used in this way but is unsatisfactory because it also includes various other kinds of types that are not name-bearers. The word "onomatophore" has been used

in this sense but was rejected. The phrase “name-bearing type” is introduced in this edition.

The second was to provide a single word to mean the second word of a binomen and the second and third word of a trinomen. The word “epithet” is used in Botanical Nomenclature in this sense and was proposed, but was not accepted by the Commission.

The third change proposed (but not accepted) was to dispense with the concept “nominal taxon” in the language of the Code and, for purposes of the Code, to treat name-bearing types as types of names rather than as types of nominal taxa designated by names. The Botanical Code uses the device proposed.

Stylistic changes that were adopted are minor, chiefly the omission of the hyphen from such expressions as “type species”, “species group”. The hyphen is, however, retained in adjectival combinations (e.g. in “species-group names.”). In cross-references to sections, the parentheses have been dropped from around letters (e.g. Art. 12a, not 12(a)) and Arabic numerals are used for lists (Art. 12b(3), Art. 58(2), and Art. 78d (i)(2)).

Looking ahead on technical issues, the most difficult of those that face zoological nomenclature today is whether publication as the primary determinant of the availability of names is still appropriate. The *Règles* required publication (Article 25, “was published and accompanied...”). At that time most scientific information was distributed and recorded in published works that were typeset. But technology changed, and in 1948 the Paris Congress found it necessary to restrict publication to reproduction in ink on paper, a requirement that was incorporated in the 1961 edition of the Code. In the third edition, the Commission, now faced with new methods of publishing and printing, unknown twenty years before, has found the requirement for ink on paper to be unduly restrictive. It is removed from 1986. However, the removal, while admitting such works as microfiche and printing by xerographic processes, also opens the door to “photocopies” that, potentially, would make the operation of the principle of priority even more difficult than did the previous admission of hectographing and mimeographing under the ink on paper requirement. It remains to be seen whether the solution to the problem proposed in this edition will prove satisfactory. But it seems likely, in the longer term and with the development of new information systems, that the solution will not lie in patching up a definition of publication but, rather, in scrapping it and finding a new means of dealing with availability. Already it has been proposed to the Commission that a solution may be found in some process of registering new names (say, in the *Zoological Record*), or of confining the publication of new names and acts to designated serials, chosen irrespective of the methods used in their production.

Introduction

Another area of concern for the future lies in the scholastic adherence in the Code to the requirements of Latin grammar when few zoologists today, or in the future, can be expected to have any understanding of it and when most will find the requirements unnecessarily burdensome. No changes are made in this edition, but with increasing use of automatic data retrieval systems that do not cope easily with mandatory changes in termination of specific names to conform with different generic names, and the abandonment of classical languages, the issue will not be long put off.

The Commission has considered, but did not adopt, a proposal to allow a dual nomenclature to be used in some fossil groups in which organs or parts separate from the fossil are, for practical purposes, classified in an admittedly artificial taxonomy paralleling the "natural" taxonomy. Strongly conflicting views were expressed by palaeontologists on the need for such a parallel nomenclature. The proposal has been deferred for future study.

Some changes have been introduced into this edition to meet special requirements. For instance, a provision introduced in 1930 that excluded descriptions of the work of an animal from providing the basis for an available name, inadvertently excluded from zoological nomenclature names based upon trace fossils, tracks, etc. In this edition, to meet the requirements of palaeontologists, the exclusion has been removed from fossils. Names based on such trace fossils ("ichnotaxa") are now admitted.

Another special case is the institution of a new class of holotype ("hapantotype") for use in modern microbiology when an individual specimen alone cannot serve the requirement for a name bearer.

This edition will not be the last word. Zoologists generally, and the Commission in particular, will go on refining the wording of the Code to reduce ambiguity and to make good deficiencies in its ability to handle products of the past. At the same time, Science, and the social and technical systems within which scientists work, are constantly changing. Students of the Code and its predecessors will find in this edition the same mixture of adventure and conservatism that has marked each of its major predecessors. Like its predecessors, this Code is a mixture of clarifications of what was there already and new measures designed to meet the challenges of modern science.

W. D. L. RIDE
Chairman, Editorial Committee

*The Canberra College of Advanced Education,
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.
March 1984*

DATES FONDAMENTALES MENTIONNÉES DANS LE CODE

1. Janvier 1758: Point de départ de la nomenclature zoologique, 3, 11a, 86
1899/1900: Noms du groupe-famille non complètement latinisés 11f(iii)
1930/1931: Statut de manuscrits reproduits par n'importe quel procédé, 9(1)
Conditions requises pour que les noms soient utilisables, 12, 13;
conditions corollaires 11c, 23f, 68b(i), 68e(i), 69.
1950/1951: Publication anonyme, 14
1960/1961: Noms proposés conditionnellement, 15,
Statut de certaines catégories infraspécifiques, 16, 45f,g,
Noms du groupe-famille, 40a, 40b
Rétablissement d'homonymes secondaires, 59d
Statut des néotypes précédemment désignés, 75g, 75C, 75D
1984/1985: Traitement de voyelles marquées d'un umlaut, 32d(i)(2)
1985/1986: Statut de travaux produits par un procédé conventionnel
d'impression ou par un autre procédé, 8c, 8d
Statut de microcartes, microfiches et photocopies, 9(2-3)

BASIC DATES IN THE CODE

- Jan. 1, 1758: Starting point of zoological nomenclature, 3, 11a, 86
1899/1900: Family-group names not fully latinized, 11f(iii)
1930/1931: Status of manuscripts reproduced by any method, 9(1)
Requirements for availability, 12, 13, and corollary provisions in
11c, 23f, 68b(i), 68e(i), 69.
1950/1951: Anonymous publication, 14
1960/1961: Conditional proposal of names, 15
Status of certain infraspecific categories, 16, 45f,g
Family-group names, 40a, 40b
Revival of secondary homonyms, 59d
Status of earlier neotypes, 75g, 75C, 75D
1984/1985: Treatment of vowels bearing an umlaut, 32d(i)(2)
1985/1986: Status of works produced by conventional printing or by
some other process, 8c, 8d
Status of microcards, microfiches and photocopies, 9(2-3)

TABLE DES MATIÈRES

Préface de la troisième édition	x
Introduction	xiii
Dates fondamentales dans le Code	xx
Note d'explication sur le Code	1

LE CODE

Préambule	
I. De la nomenclature zoologique	2
1. Définition et champ d'application	4
2. Acceptabilité de certains noms dans la nomenclature zoologique	6
3. Point de départ	6
II. Du nombre de mots dans les noms scientifiques des animaux	
4. Noms des taxa de rangs supérieurs au groupe-espèce	8
5. Noms des taxa des rangs du groupe-espèce	8
6. Noms intercalés	8
III. Des critères de publication	
7. Domaine d'application	12
8. Ce qui constitue un acte de publication	12
9. Ce qui ne constitue pas une publication	14
IV. Des critères de la disponibilité	
10. Dispositions générales	16
11. Conditions générales requises	18
12. Noms publiés avant 1931	32
13. Noms publiés après 1930	34
14. Publications anonymes	38
15. Propositions conditionnelles	38
16. Noms proposés avec le terme "variété" ou "forme"	38
17. Noms reconnus comme désignant plus d'un taxon ou des hybrides, ou proposés pour des parties d'animaux	38
18. Noms impropres et tautonymes	38
19. Statut des émendations, orthographes incorrectes et changements obligatoires	40
20. Noms du groupe-genre en <i>-ites</i> , <i>-yles</i> ou <i>-ithes</i> donnés à des fossiles	40

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface to the Third Edition	x
Introduction	xiii
Basic dates in the Code	xx
Explanatory Note on the Code	1

THE CODE

Preamble	3
I. Zoological nomenclature	
1. Definition and Scope	5
2. Eligibility of certain names in zoological nomenclature	7
3. Starting point	7
II. The number of words in the scientific names of animals	
4. Names of taxa of ranks above the species group	9
5. Names of taxa of ranks in the species group	9
6. Interpolated names	9
III. Criteria of publication	
7. Application	13
8. What constitutes publication	13
9. What does not constitute publication	15
IV. Criteria of availability	
10. General provisions	17
11. Requirements	19
12. Names published before 1931	33
13. Names published after 1930	35
14. Anonymous publication	39
15. Conditional proposals	39
16. Names proposed with the term "variety" or "form"	39
17. Names found to denote more than one taxon, or hybrids, or proposed for parts of animals	39
18. Inappropriate and tautonymous names	39
19. Status of emendations, incorrect spellings, and mandatory changes	41
20. Genus-group names ending in <i>-ites</i> , <i>-ytes</i> , or <i>-ithes</i> , given to fossils	41

Table des Matières

V.	De la date de publication	
21.	Détermination de la date	42
22.	Citation de la date	44
VI.	Des noms valides	
23.	Principe de Priorité	46
24.	Le Principe du Premier Réviseur	52
VII.	De la formation et du traitement des noms	
25.	Formation et traitement des noms	54
26.	Présomption du grec ou du latin pour le traitement des noms	54
27.	Signes diacritiques et autres	54
28.	Lettres initiales	54
29.	Noms du groupe-famille	54
30.	Genre grammatical des noms du groupe-genre	56
31.	Noms du groupe-espèce	60
32.	Orthographe originale	66
33.	Orthographes subséquentes	72
34.	Changements obligatoires d'orthographes à la suite de changements de rang ou de combinaison	74
VIII.	Des taxa du groupe-famille et de leurs noms	
35.	Le groupe-famille	74
36.	Principe de Coordination	76
37.	Taxa nominatifs	78
38.	Homonymie dans le groupe-famille	78
39.	Homonymie du genre-type	78
40.	Synonymie du genre-type	80
41.	Genres-types mal identifiés et fixations de types ignorées	80
IX.	Des taxa du groupe-genre et de leurs noms	
42.	Le groupe-genre	82
43.	Principe de Coordination	82
44.	Taxa nominatifs	84
X.	Des taxa du groupe-espèce et de leurs noms	
45.	Le groupe-espèce	84
46.	Principe de Coordination	88
47.	Taxa nominatifs	88
48.	Transfert d'espèces d'un genre à un autre	88
49.	Emploi des noms du groupe-espèce mal appliqués par suite d'une erreur d'identification	90
XI.	De l'auteur	
50.	L'auteur d'un nom	90
51.	Citation du nom de l'auteur	94

Table of Contents

V.	Date of publication	
21.	Determination of date	43
22.	Citation of date	45
VI.	Validity of names	
23.	Principle of Priority	47
24.	Principle of the First Reviser	53
VII.	Formation and treatment of names	
25.	Formation and treatment of names	55
26.	Assumption of Greek or Latin for treatment of names	55
27.	Diacritic and other marks	55
28.	Initial letters	55
29.	Family-group names	55
30.	Gender of genus-group names	57
31.	Species-group names	61
32.	Original spelling	67
33.	Subsequent spellings	73
34.	Mandatory changes in spelling consequent upon changes in rank or combination	75
VIII.	Family-group taxa and names	
35.	The family group	75
36.	Principle of Coordination	77
37.	Nominotypical taxa	79
38.	Homonymy in the family group	79
39.	Homonymy of the type genus	79
40.	Synonymy of the type genus	81
41.	Misidentified type genera and overlooked type fixations	81
IX.	Genus-group taxa and names	
42.	The genus group	83
43.	Principle of Coordination	83
44.	Nominotypical taxa	85
X.	Species-group taxa and names	
45.	The species group	85
46.	Principle of Coordination	89
47.	Nominotypical taxa	89
48.	Change of genus	89
49.	Use of species-group names wrongly applied through misidentification	91
XI.	Authorship	
50.	Author of a name	91
51.	Citation of name of author	95