

madagascariensis Bonaparte, 1856 should be avoided. One of us (Bourne) felt that corrective action on the name to be conserved might be needed but hesitated to initiate this before seeing Bonaparte's type specimen.

There is still doubt about the identity of the type of *S. a. madagascariensis*. The *Catharacta* breeding in the Southern Ocean become smaller from *lonnbergi* of the New Zealand area westward to the *antarctica* of the Falklands area (see also Murphy, 1936). A tarsus as long as 85 mm (para. 3 of the application), which Dr Voisin informs us was checked after dismounting, is only found in the first area, whilst a wing span near 370 mm is found only in the second (Furness, 1987). Thus, the bird presumably belongs to one of the intermediate populations, named *Catharacta skua hamiltoni* by Hagen (1952), occurring at some of the breeding islands such as Tristan, Gough, and possibly also St Paul and Amsterdam Islands (Segonzac, 1972); these were commoner when the type of *madagascariensis* was collected.

Hitherto the simplest solution might have been to consider the race of *S. a. madagascariensis* indeterminable, eliminating any need for Commission action. However, with the development of molecular genetic techniques it has become feasible to obtain taxonomic information from DNA in the skin and feather bases of museum specimens. Drs B. Cohen, R. Wilson and R. Furness have examined base sequences among all the skua taxa from which Bonaparte's type is likely to have come and it should be possible to identify the actual population.

The specific name of *hamiltoni* Hagen, 1952 was rejected by Richardson (1984) among others but some authors, including Furness (1987), are continuing to use it. Therefore we propose that if the application by Voisin et al. is approved this name, which is also junior to *madagascariensis*, should be included with *Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi* Mathews, 1912 on the Official List.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *hamiltoni* Hagen, 1952, as published in the trinomen *Catharacta skua hamiltoni*.

Additional references

- Hagen, Y. 1952. Birds of Tristan da Cunha. *Results of the Norwegian Expedition to Tristan da Cunha 1937-1938*, 20: 1-248.
- Murphy, R.C. 1936. Oceanic birds of South America. *American Museum of Natural History*, 2: 1006-1034.
- Richardson, M.E. 1984. Aspects of the ornithology of the Tristan da Cunha group and Gough Island, 1972-1974. *Cormorant*, 12: 123-201.
- Segonzac, M. 1972. Données recentes sur la faune des îles Saint-Paul et Nouvelle Amsterdam. *L'Oiseau*, 42 (Special number): 3-68.

Comments on the proposed designation of *Lagomeryx ruetimeyeri* Thenius, 1948 as the type species of *Lagomeryx* Roger, 1904 (Mammalia, Artiodactyla)
(Case 2882; see BZN 50: 133-136)

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Je pense que le meilleur type de *Lagomeryx* serait un bois. La pièce figurée par Rütimeyer est évidemment la meilleure, donc l'espèce créée par Thenius, *Lagomeryx ruetimeyeri*, serait, ou sera, la meilleure espèce-type.

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I support the application of Gentry & Heizmann to designate *Lagomeryx ruetimeyeri* Thenius, 1948 as the type species of *Lagomeryx* Roger, 1904. The name *Lagomeryx* is understood by all specialists of Miocene artiodactyls to refer to distinctive, non-deciduous cervoid antlers with very long, upright pedicles and a cluster of terminal prongs at the top. Antlers of this form from Reisensburg, Germany, were placed in his new genus *Lagomeryx* by Roger (1904). However, he included them under *Palaeomeryx meyeri* Hofmann, 1893, of which the type material comprises teeth and limb bones (less diagnostic than antlers), possibly referable to *Euprox* or *Heteroprox* which are genera of very different antler form from *Lagomeryx*. Thenius (1948) founded *L. ruetimeyeri* with a Reisensburg antler as holotype. Fixing this as the type species of *Lagomeryx* will crystallise the current, and indeed the originally intended, usage of both *Lagomeryx* and the other cervoid genera.

Comment on the proposed designation of *Antilope dichotoma* Gervais, 1849 as the type species of *Procervulus* Gaudry, 1877 (Mammalia, Artiodactyla)

(Case 2883; see BZN 50: 137–139)

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I support the application by Gentry & Rössner to designate *Antilope dichotoma* Gervais, 1849 as the type species of *Procervulus*. The name *Procervulus* is understood by all specialists of Miocene artiodactyls to refer to distinctive, non-deciduous cervoid antlers with a distal bifurcation, as illustrated by Gaudry (1877) when founding the genus. However, Gaudry used the name *Cervus aurelianensis* Meyer, 1843, the type material of which cannot be equated with the *Procervulus* antlers. *A. dichotoma* was based on antlers which agree with those of *Procervulus*, and the designation of this species as the type will clearly resolve this case of mistaken identity, as already suggested by Stehlin (1925).



Ginsburg, Léonard. 1993. "Comments On The Proposed Designation Of Lagomeryx Ruetimeyeri Thenius, 1948 As The Type Species Of Lagomeryx Roger, 1904 (Mammalia, Artiodactyla)." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 50, 295–296. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.1880>.

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