SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY DR. LAURENCE M. KLAUBER REGARDING THE TRIVIAL NAMES “ATROX” BAIRD & GIRARD, 1853 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION “CROTALUS ATROX”) AND “POLYSTICTA” COPE, 1865 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION “CAUDISONA POLYSTICTA”) RESPECTIVELY (CLASS REPTILIA, ORDER SQUAMATA)

By HOBART M. SMITH,
(University of Illinois, Department of Zoology, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.)

(Commission’s references Z.N.(S.)523 and 524)
(Letter dated 28th April, 1952)

It does not appear to me that Crotalus cinereous Le Conte, 1852, is an available name, but that upon careful consideration other conclusion is possible has been well demonstrated. In such controversial matters a complete analysis of the various interpretations involved is not needed nearly as much as a simple establishment by the Commission of the proper name. In this case there can be no question that conservation of atrox would best serve nomenclatural stability.

There is less reason for uncertainty regarding availability of multimaculata, which clearly, in the interest of stability should be suppressed at the same time that polystictus is placed on the Official List.

Both the recommendations suggested by Dr. Klauber have much merit in eliminating possible causes for confusion, and commendable also is his prompt adoption of the long-needed procedure for conserving long-recognized names which by strict application of the rules would be changed. This is certainly one of the most important advances of nomenclatorial procedure in a good many years. We can now anticipate a real decrease in the alarming rate of name changes.

SUPPORT FOR DR. LAURENCE KLAUBER’S PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE TRIVIAL NAMES “ATROX” BAIRD & GIRARD, 1853 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION “CROTALUS ATROX”) AND “POLYSTICTA” COPE, 1865 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION “CAUDISONA POLYSTICTA”) RESPECTIVELY (CLASS REPTILIA, ORDER SQUAMATA)

By KARL P. SCHMIDT, D. DWIGHT DAVIS AND CLIFFORD H. POPE,
(Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.)

(Commission’s references Z.N.(S.)523 and 524)
(Letter dated 29th April, 1952)

We wish to support the application of Dr. L. M. Klauber regarding the name Crotalus atrox versus Crotalus cinereous and Crotalus polystictus as against Crotalus multimaculatus.

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