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#### Note by P. K. Tubbs, Executive Secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

This article by Reeve M. Bailey and C. Richard Robins is a valuable survey of the application of the 1985 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature to a large fauna, the names of which have been carefully considered on a number of occasions, from both taxonomic and nomenclatural points of view, by a committee of specialists. Such a scrutiny serves the purpose of drawing attention to instances where the wording of the Code may be ambiguous, or where strict adherence to its provisions may not coincide with the general practice of those who use zoological names.

One example of (perennial) confusion is the termination of species-group names based on modern personal names. Both *-i* and *-ii* have been frequently used since the eighteenth century as genitive terminations of names based on those of recent or living men (patronymics). In early works personal names or even the whole text were Latin, or at least 'latinised', so that either termination was natural, and more recently specific names terminating in *-ii* have often been given, presumably because they give an appearance of classical form. The 1895 Règles prescribed (Article 14, translation) that '... the genitive is always to be formed by the addition of a simple *-i* to the exact and complete name of the person concerned, e.g. *Cuvieri*, ... In the case where the name of the person has been employed and declined in the Latin language the rules of declination should be followed, e.g. *Plinii*, *Aristotelis*, *Victoris*, *Antonii* ...'. This regulation was not adhered to, and the subsequent 'legislative' history has been summarised by Bailey & Robins.

It is a basic principle of zoological nomenclature, embodied in Article 32a of the Code, that the original spelling of a name is to be preserved unaltered unless it is 'demonstrably incorrect'. In pursuit of this most workers have used the original termination, whether *-i* or *-ii*, of modern genitive patronymics. Bailey & Robins (and others) have pointed out, however, that the 1985 Code can be read as directing that names such as *smithii* should be corrected (Articles 31a(ii) and 32c(i)), e.g. to *smithi*, unless *explicit* latinisation of the personal name (the quotation of Smithius) had been made.

Confusion continues over the *-i* and *-ii* terminations, despite repeated efforts to ensure uniformity. It is clear that both will continue in use in biological names, especially since the 1983 International Code of Botanical Nomenclature supports (Recommendation 73c) the *-ii* form. There are three possibilities for zoological names: (i) to follow the originally published spelling for all names; (ii) to 'correct' *-ii* to *-i* (except in patronymics derived from personal names such as Fabricius or Rossi); (iii) to regard *-i* and *-ii* as being entirely equivalent in all cases, the choice between them being at any user's discretion (the terminations are already treated as the same for purposes of homonymy (Art. 59b)). Similar considerations apply to *-ae* and *-iae*.

It would be most helpful to have the views of zoologists on this matter, and indeed on any other other point arising from the article by Drs Bailey and Robins.



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