

The taxonomy of this group of frogs is in an unsatisfactory state, but Dubois's proposals would appear to be able to accommodate any changes in the future.

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While we support most actions requested by Prof Dubois in this case, especially the endorsement concerning the long-unused name HEMIMANTIDAE Hoffman, 1878, we recommend alternatives to his principal other proposals.

The name PHRYNOBATRACHINAE Laurent, 1941 has been widely used since that date for a subfamily containing both *Petropedetes* Reichenow, 1874 and *Phrynobatrachus* Günther, 1862, but PETROPEDETINAE Noble, 1931 (a senior subjective synonym of PHRYNOBATRACHINAE) has also been extensively used for this family-group and, importantly, also in the comprehensive checklist of the amphibians of the world (Frost, 1985). This work has been adopted as the official classification of amphibians for the purposes of enforcement by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES). In this compendium the author of the name PHRYNOBATRACHINAE, R. Laurent, was one of the contributing reviewers to the PETROPEDETINAE section.

Seeking the conservation of the junior synonym PHRYNOBATRACHINAE when both it and PETROPEDETINAE have about equal frequencies of usage does not contribute to stability, particularly when PETROPEDETINAE is now most familiar to the non-systematic herpetology public. We therefore ask that the Commission use its plenary powers to accept the following alternatives to (1)(a)-(b) and 4(a)-(c) in para. 10 of the application:

- (1) (a) to rule that the family-group name PETROPEDETINAE Noble, 1931 and other family-group names based on *Petropedetes* Reichenow, 1874 are to be given precedence over HEMIMANTIDAE Hoffman, 1878 and other family-group names based on *Hemimantis* Peters, 1863;
- (b) to rule that the family-group name PHRYNOBATRACHINAE Laurent, 1941 and other family-group names based on *Phrynobatrachus* Günther, 1862 are to be given precedence over HEMIMANTIDAE Hoffman, 1878 and other family-group names based on *Hemimantis* Peters, 1863;
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) PETROPEDETINAE Noble, 1931 (type genus *Petropedetes* Reichenow, 1874) with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Petropedetes* are to be given precedence over HEMIMANTIDAE Hoffmann, 1878 (type genus *Hemimantis* Peters, 1863) and other family-group names based on *Hemimantis* and (by the first reviser action of Dubois, 1982) over CACOSTERNINAE Noble, 1931 (type genus *Cacosternum* Boulenger, 1887)

and other family-group names based on *Cacosternum*, whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;

- (b) CACOSTERNINAE Noble, 1931 (type genus *Cacosternum* Boulenger, 1887) with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Cacosternum* are to be given precedence over HEMIMANTIDAE Hoffman, 1878 (type genus *Hemimantis* Peters, 1863) and other family-group names based on *Hemimantis*, but are not to be given priority over PETROPEDETINAE Noble, 1931 (type genus *Petropedetes* Reichenow, 1874) and other family-group names based on *Petropedetes*, whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
- (c) PHRYNOBATRACHINAE Laurent, 1941 (type genus *Phrynobatrachus* Günther, 1862) with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Phrynobatrachus* are to be given precedence over HEMIMANTIDAE Hoffman, 1878 (type genus *Hemimantis* Peters, 1863) and other family-group names based on *Hemimantis*, whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.

**Comment on the proposed conservation of *Lycognathophis* Boulenger, 1893
(Reptilia, Serpentes)**

(Case 2877; see BZN 51: 330–331)

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I strongly support this application: favorable actions in such cases, where a junior synonym has dominant usage, are very important in preserving nomenclatural stability.

Island snake faunas have been the subject of considerable recent attention, in part due to the serious economic and ecological effects of the introduction into Guam of the brown tree snake *Boiga irregularis*. *Lycognathophis seychellensis* is a member of the unique endemic herpetofauna of the Seychelles, and is of further interest because of the unusually enlarged anterior teeth of the lower jaw. It would be very unfortunate if its name were to be destabilized for no good reason, and I urge the Commission to accept Smith & Wallach's proposals.

**Comments on the proposed conservation of some mammal generic names first
published in Brisson's (1762) *Regnum Animale***

(Case 2928; see BZN 51: 135–146, 266–267, 342–348; 52: 78–93, 187–192)

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The proposal to replace the familiar mammalian generic name *Glis* Brisson, 1762 with the now largely forgotten *Myoxus* Zimmermann, 1780 is a particularly sad



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