



## Proposed Modification of the *ICPN (PhyloCode)* to Clarify an Issue Concerning the Authorship of Some Preexisting Names

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While consulting with Daniel Madzia (Institute of Paleobiology, Polish Academy of Sciences) about the authorship of a preexisting name for a clade of plesiosaurians, we became aware of an inconsistency concerning the attribution of authorship in the *International Code of Phylogenetic Nomenclature* (Cantino and de Queiroz 2020). Recommendation 9.15A states that authorship of a preexisting name should refer to the original publication of the name, spelled the same way as when converted. By contrast, Article 19.5 states that when the prevailing spelling of a preexisting name differs from the original spelling due to correction of orthographic or typographical errors in the original spelling or orthographic standardizations, whether imposed by a rank-based code or accepted by convention, the prevailing spelling is to be attributed to the author of the publication in which the original spelling was used. In the case discussed with Madzia, according to Rec. 9.15A, (nominal) authorship of the name *Brachaucheninae* should seemingly be attributed to Holland (2018), the first author to spell the name consistently with a double “i”. By contrast, according to Art. 19.5, (nominal) authorship should be attributed to Druckenmiller and Knutsen (2012), who spelled the name *Brachaucheninae* (with one “i”). To remove this inconsistency, we propose the following modifications to the current first sentence of Article 9.15A (proposed deletions between angle brackets (<>); proposed additions, as well as the recommendation name and number, in **bold**):

**Recommendation 9.15A.** If possible, the bibliographic citation demonstrating authorship of the preexisting name should refer to the original publication of the name (but see Note 19.1.1), spelled the same way as when converted and regardless of the rank and composition originally associated with the name, <>provided **that** it is not a homonym<> (see Note 9.15A.2) **and provided that the prevailing spelling of the name does not differ from the original spelling due to correction of orthographic or typographical errors (see Art. 19.5).**

Under our proposed modification to Rec. 9.15A, (nominal) authorship of the name *Brachaucheninae* should be attributed to Druckenmiller and Knutsen (2012) according to both Rec. 9.15A and Art. 19.5. Although those authors spelled the name with a single “i”, if the name to be converted is spelled with a double “i”, that difference is based on the correction of an orthographic error (see Noé and Gómez-Pérez 2022).

### Acknowledgments

Consultation with Daniel Madzia brought the inconsistency addressed in this proposal to our attention, and comments by Nico Cellinese helped to improve the proposal.

### Literature Cited

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- Holland, T. 2018. The mandible of *Kronosaurus queenslandicus* Longman, 1924 (*Pliosauridae, Brachaucheninae*), from the Lower Cretaceous of northwest Queensland, Australia. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 38:e1511569. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02724634.2018.1511569>
- Noè, L. F., and M. Gómez-Pérez. 2022. Giant pliosaurids (*Sauropterygia; Plesiosauria*) from the Lower Cretaceous peri-Gondwanan seas of Colombia and Australia. *Cretaceous Research* 132:105122. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cretres.2021.105122>