



Commentaries on Gentile & Snell (2009): an introduction

In this volume of *Zootaxa*, Gentile and Snell (2009) describe a new species of terrestrial iguana from the Galápagos Islands. The extreme geographical localization and the very small estimated size of the only known population of the new species are regarded by the authors as incompatible with the killing of a specimen to be fixed as the holotype to be preserved as a museum specimen. As an alternative, they have marked a ‘living holotype’ with a Passive Integrated Transponder and chosen to document its existence and its diagnostic traits, pending the specimen’s natural death and eventual preservation, by providing information on molecular characters, specimen external description and measurements, photos and video recording.

This approach to the nomenclaturally critical issue of type fixation provides an opportunity to present here a few additional statements on these contentious matters, written by three colleagues whose opposite views are already known to our readers.

With these commentary papers by Thomas Donegan (2009), Alain Dubois (2009) and André Nemésio (2009), *Zootaxa* closes, for the time being, this public debate.

Alessandro Minelli, Zootaxa editor for zoological nomenclature
Dept. of Biology
University of Padova
Via Ugo Bassi 58 B
35131 PADOVA - ITALY
e-mail: alessandro.minelli@unipd.it

References

- Donegan, T. (2009) Type specimens, samples of live individuals and the Galapagos Pink Land Iguana. *Zootaxa*, 2201, 12–20.
- Dubois, A. (2009) Endangered species and endangered knowledge. *Zootaxa*, 2201, 26–29.
- Gentile, G. & Snell, H. (2009) *Conolophus marthae* sp. nov. (Squamata, Iguanidae), a new species of land iguana from the Galápagos archipelago. *Zootaxa*, 2201, 1–10.
- Nemésio, A. (2009) On the live holotype of the Galápagos pink land Iguana, *Conolophus marthae* Gentile & Snell, 2009 (Squamata: Iguanidae): is it an acceptable exception? *Zootaxa*, 2201, 21–25.