# Article

# **ZOOTAXA**

# Comments on new names and nomenclatural acts of amphibians and non-avian sauropsids established by Garsault 1764 and Laurenti 1768 (response to Dubois & Bour 2010)

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## Abstract

This is a response to a recent work published by Dubois & Bour (2010, Zootaxa 2447: 1–52) on the nomenclatural status of some taxa established by Garsault (1764) and Laurenti (1768). We have a substantially deviating interpretation of the ICZN Code concerning the involved names and nomenclatural acts.

We see no major problem in regarding most of Laurenti's (1768) species-group names that were published as separate words ("technically trinominal names") as consistent with the Principle of Binominal Nomenclature. Presence or absence of a hyphen in a compound specific name is not a criterion for binominality, instead the grammatical relationships of the separate words have to be analysed for eventually forming a "single entity" as demanded by Art. 11.9.5. Dubois & Bour (2010) proposed a new procedure for the treatment of early genus-group names which were originally established without species included. We do not think this proposal is in accordance with the ICZN Code, and recommend to use the names *Bufo*, *Salamandra*, *Scincus* and *Vipera* in the widely accepted sense and simply shift authority and date of these four names from Laurenti (1768) to Garsault (1764).

In two cases we regard nomenclautural acts published by Dubois & Bour (2010) as risky. The widely used names *Hyla* Laurenti, 1768 (Amphibia) and *Natrix* Laurenti, 1768 (Squamata) are threatened because Dubois & Bour (2010) validly and unnecessarily fixed type species for the senior synonyms *Ranetta* Garsault, 1764 and *Serpens* Garsault, 1764, and at the same occasion missed to protect *Hyla* and *Natrix* effectively under Art. 23.9.2. They intended to protect the names under Art. 23.9.1.2, but instead of meeting the requirement to "give evidence" that the conditions were met, they gave only indirect references to general bibliographical lists. We regard this as ineffective as would be a general reference to the Zoological Record or any other bibiographical work. These two important generic names should be protected effectively under Art. 23.9.2, by citing 25 publications and not only one, before someone uses the names *Ranetta* and *Serpens* at one occasion deliberately or undeliberately in a current classification, and suppressing them validly under Art. 23.9.2 would not be possible any more. The same applies to *Triturus cristatus* (Laurenti, 1768) (Amphibia: Salamandridae) and *Podarcis muralis* (Laurenti, 1768) (Squamata: Lacertidae).

**Key words:** Garsault (1764), Laurenti (1768), nomenclature, *Code*, Article 11.9.5, Article 23.9.2, synonymy, homonymy, priority, old publications, well-known nomina, subgenus, Amphibia, Squamata, *Bufo*

## Introduction

Recently an early medical work with zoological content published by the French artist F. A. P. de Garsault (1764, 1765, 1767) was rediscovered (Welter-Schultes *et al.* 2008, Welter-Schultes & Klug 2009). Zoologists had lost track of this publication in the early 1800s, mainly because it had been attributed to an incorrect author (Geoffroy) so that it had not been found any more in libraries. Zoologists have continued using some scientific names for fish genera without knowing their original source any more. We analysed the work and came to the conclusion that it was binominal and that the fish names were available. But at the same occasion we saw that Garsault had mentioned several other names of other animal groups, which were to compete with names established by other zoological authors, particularly by authors who at later dates had established the same names for the same animals. We alerted the community in 2009 to take care of these names and eventually take action where appropriate. In some