



# Editorial

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## Amendment of Articles 8, 9, 10, 21 and 78 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* to expand and refine methods of publication

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

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### ABSTRACT

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has voted in favour of a revised version of the amendment to the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* that was proposed in 2008. The purpose of the amendment is to expand and refine the methods of publication allowed by the Code, particularly in relation to electronic publication. The amendment establishes an *Official Register of Zoological Nomenclature* (with ZooBank as its online version), allows electronic publication after 2011 under certain conditions, and disallows publication on optical discs after 2012. The requirements for electronic publications are that the work be registered in ZooBank before it is published, that the work itself state the date of publication and contain evidence that registration has occurred, and that the ZooBank registration state both the name of an electronic archive intended to preserve the work and the ISSN or ISBN associated with the work. Registration of new scientific names and nomenclatural acts is not required. The Commission has confirmed that ZooBank is ready to handle the requirements of the amendment.

**Key words:** Amendment; archiving; electronic publication; International Code of Zoological Nomenclature; Official Register of Zoological Nomenclature; ZooBank

In 2008, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) published a proposed amendment to the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, 4th edition (ICZN, 1999), the primary aim of which was to define a mechanism by which electronic publication of new scientific names and nomenclatural acts could be permitted under the Code (ICZN, 2008—BZN **65**: 265–275). The key principles approved by the Commission for drafting the document were: 1) Electronic-only publications should be allowed, if mechanisms can be found that give reasonable assurance of the long-term accessibility of the information they contain; 2) Some method of registration should be part of the mechanism of allowing electronic publication of names and nomenclatural acts; 3) Physical works that are not paper-based (e.g. CD-ROMs, DVDs) should be disallowed (ICZN, 2008—BZN **65**: 266). The core principles of the amendment were approved by the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS, the governing body for ICZN) in their 2009 general meeting in Cape Town in agreement with Article 78.3 of the Code. Thereafter the details were extensively debated within the Commission, in online forums (especially Taxacom and the ICZN listservers), in the pages of the *Bulletin* (BZN volumes **66–67**, all contributed comments available here: <http://iczn.org/content/availability-electronic-publication>), at numerous taxonomic meetings and at an open meeting held in London on 29 October 2011 (summary published in ICZN, 2011—BZN **68**: 246–247).

A number of incremental votes were held within the ICZN Council and the Commission to develop consensus wording that satisfied many of the concerns raised during the discussion period. The main decisions reached in these votes were as follows:

- 1) The changes concerning electronic publication should be effective from the beginning of 2012.
- 2) The requirement for registration in ZooBank of new scientific names in electronic works was changed to a requirement for registration of the work itself.
- 3) The requirement that an electronic work be archived was changed to a requirement of intent to archive, with this requirement being satisfied by statement of the intended archive in ZooBank.