

Dr. Charles Vaurie, because he was one of the applicants, withdrew from any participation in the discussion or voting of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, or in the preparation of this report. The Committee is, however, of the opinion and has reason to believe that the applicants would find the compromise recommendation here submitted to be acceptable—if adopted by the International Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress.

F. Salomonsen, Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark

Chairman, *pro tempore*,

E. Eisenmann, American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.

K. H. Voous, Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

#### COMMENT ON THE REQUEST FOR A DECLARATION AGAINST THE SUPPRESSION OF NOMINA DUBIA. Z.N.(S.) 1714

(see vol. 22, pages 265–266, vol. 23, pages 11–12, vol. 24, page 73)

By Henning Lemche (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*)

The comment published by Commissioner Sabrosky (B.Z.N. 24 : 73) on the possible paragraph (iv) of Article 79a gives quite a good formulation which I should like to propose altered only in a single point. A name that remains a nomen dubium may still become a danger to stability if some zoologist accepts it tentatively even without properly “discovering its identity”. So, I would feel that—if and when we are going to revise the Code once more—the proposal by Commissioner Sabrosky might be accepted without these words “if its identity is ever discovered”.

To me, it seems enough if the paragraph runs simply:

“A name that is a *nomen dubium* is not to be suppressed for that reason alone”—possibly with the addition of “but it may become so if it is found to constitute a real disturbance to stability or universality of names”.

#### COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES FOR *PATANGA* UVAROV, 1923. Z.N.(S.) 1761

(see volume 23, pages 235–238, volume 24, pages 130–137)

By Ernst Mayr (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.*)

It seems to me that this application clearly violates Article 75. As Lindroth, Ramsbottom, Svenson, Cain and other Linnaean specialists have pointed out repeatedly, Linnaeus did not have the modern concept of type specimens as name bearers. Mr. Dirsh acknowledges this by designating the specimen of “*succinctus*” as neotype. By this action Dirsh violates two provisions of Article 75. This neotype designation is not “necessary in the interest of stability of nomenclature” (75a) because in the present case it leads precisely to utter confusion. Since 1923 the name *succinctus* has been used for a typical species of *Patanga* and indeed *succinctus*, as misidentified by Uvarov, was made the type-species of *Patanga*. Dirsh’s action would lead to a complete shifting of names. Indeed Dirsh proposes to make *succinctus* the type of the genus *Valanga*, etc. Dirsh’s neotype transfers the name *succinctus* to a species for which this “name is not in general use either as a valid name or as a synonym” (thus violating Art. 75b).

In order to avoid these confusing transfers of names and to obviate a neotype selection in conflict with the provisions of Article 75 I herewith propose that Dirsh’s neotype selection is declared as invalid and that the Commission set aside all previous designations for the species *succinctus* and designate as neotype the specimen selected by Dirsh as the neotype of *assectator*.

An equally acceptable solution would be to suppress the name *succinctus*.



Mayr, Ernst. 1967. "Comment on the proposed designation of a type-species for *Patanga Uvarov*, 1923. Z.N.(S.) 1761." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 24, 275. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.15420>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44466>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.15420>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/15420>

#### **Holding Institution**

Natural History Museum Library, London

#### **Sponsored by**

Natural History Museum Library, London

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.