

**Case 2770*****Hylobates entelloides* I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1842 (Mammalia, Primates): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of *Hylobates entelloides* I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1842, currently in use for the white-handed gibbon of south-west Thailand and Tenasserim (Burma, or Myanmar). The name has been placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology (Opinion 1219) but is threatened by two senior subjective synonyms, *Simia longimana* Schreber, [1774] and *S. albirmana* Vigors & Horsfield, 1828.

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1. The generic name *Hylobates* Illiger, 1811 (p. 67) was placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology in Opinion 122 (January 1931). Subsequently, the specific name of *Homo lar* Linnaeus, 1771 (p. 521), the type species of *Hylobates* by monotypy, was placed on the Official List of Specific Names (Direction 22, November 1955). In Opinion 1219 (September 1982; see also BZN 35: 197–198) a neotype for *Homo lar* was designated under the plenary powers which attached the name to the Malayan white-handed gibbon (the 'petit gibbon' of Buffon, 1766, pl. 3), type locality 'Malacca', in accordance with current understanding and usage. The specific name of *Hylobates entelloides* I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1842 (p. 717), currently in use for the white-handed gibbon of Thailand and Tenasserim (the 'grand gibbon' of Buffon, 1766, pl. 2), was also placed on the Official List in Opinion 1219. However, the name *entelloides* has two senior subjective synonyms and this problem has so far not been resolved. The name is currently used as a subspecies of *Hylobates lar* (Linnaeus).

2. In his description of *Homo lar* Linnaeus (1771) cited two previous references:

'Golock. Act. Angl. 1769. pl. 71. t. 3.

Gibbon. Buff. anim. XIV. p. 92. t. 2, 3?'

The second of these citations refers to Buffon's two plates (1766, pls. 2 and 3) which were reproduced in Schreber ([1774], p. 67, pl. 3; see Sherborn, 1891, p. 588 for the date of publication) under the name *Simia longimana*; Schreber's specific name is therefore a junior subjective synonym of *Homo lar* Linnaeus, 1771. Latreille (1804, p. 276) was the first to separate Buffon's large and small gibbons, undifferentiated by Linnaeus and Schreber, into separate taxa, referring to the former as *Pithecus lar* Linnaeus and the



latter by a new name, *P. varius*. The attachment of the name *lar* to the Malayan white-handed gibbon in Opinion 1219 renders *lar* a senior subjective synonym of *varius* Latreille, 1804, and also of *P. variegatus* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1812 (p. 88), a name which was also proposed for Buffon's small gibbon (see Groves, 1972, p. 12).

3. I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (1842, p. 717) described *Hylobates entelloides*, the name currently in use for the Thailand subspecies of white-handed gibbon, on three individuals of different ages and sexes collected by a missionary, Monsieur Barre, from 'la presque île Malaise, le douzième degré de latitude nord'. Saint-Hilaire (1851) listed the syntypes in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris and noted that two of the specimens (mounted) had been illustrated (Saint-Hilaire, [1843], pp. 532–535, pl. 29). Rode (1938, p. 205) also listed the syntypes and noted one (no. 4a, adult male) as the 'holotype'; this does not constitute designation of a lectotype (Article 72b(vii)). Groves (1972, p. 13) reported that 'the type skin appears to be no longer extant'. However, a further search by one of us (C.P.G.) has since confirmed that the specimens listed by Rode (an adult male with a young male clinging to it, and an adult female) are in fact still present in the type collection of the Muséum in Paris, and that they are indeed specimens (in pale colour phase) of the taxon described by Groves (1972) as *Hylobates lar entelloides*. In his revision of the HYLOBATIDAE, Groves (1971, pp. 74–75) considered that *Simia longimana* Schreber, [1774] was not only a junior synonym (in part) of *Homo lar* but was also a senior subjective synonym (in part) of *Hylobates entelloides*. With the exception of the invalid use of *longimana* by Simonetta (1957, p. 62) to include the Malayan and Sumatran white-handed gibbons the name has not been used since Schreber's [1774] publication and we propose that it be suppressed.

4. The nominal species *Simia albimana* Vigors & Horsfield, 1828 (pp. 107–109) was based on two specimens from the 'Sumatra collection' presented to the museum of the Zoological Society of London by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. One syntype, a skin with skull, is now in the collections of the Natural History Museum, London, specimen no. BM(NH) 1855.12.24.6, but the whereabouts of the other syntype is unknown. The date of publication for the name *albimana* given by Gray ([1871], p. 10) as 'Horsf. Zool. Journ. 1820', and repeated by Simonetta (1957, p. 63), was an error since the *Zoological Journal* was published from 1824 to 1835. The name *albimana* has been used to refer to the white-handed gibbon of north Sumatra (Chenu, [after 1850], p. 67, pl. 10 bis; Kloss, 1929, p. 118; Miller, 1942, p. 131) but Fooden (1969, p. 629) and Groves (1972, p. 12) considered the type locality given for *albimana* to be incorrect. Fooden thought the species was more likely to be Malayan but Groves (1972, p. 12), following an examination of the existing syntype, considered it to be a specimen of the species from Tenasserim and southern Thailand. The name *albimana* is thus a senior subjective synonym of *Hylobates entelloides* I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1842 and we propose that it be suppressed to conserve the much used name *entelloides*. To adopt *albimana* for the Thailand subspecies would be destabilising and would result in considerable confusion, particularly as the name has been used in the past for a Sumatran gibbon. Since Groves's (1972) work no author has adopted the name *albimana* for the Thailand gibbon and the next available name for the northern Sumatran gibbon, *Hylobates lar vestitus* (Miller, 1942) (p. 131; described as *H. albimanus vestitus*), has been universally used (see the references cited below).

5. The name *entelloides* I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1842 is universally in use for the white-handed gibbon from Thailand and Tenasserim and appears in works on primate



biology, ecology and conservation, as well as taxonomy. The name has been used in the following representative list of recent publications which cover these fields: Fooden (1971), Creel & Preuschoft (1976, 1984), Chivers (1977), Roonwal & Mohnot (1977), Haimoff, Gittins, Whitten & Chivers (1984), Marshall, Sugardjito & Markaya (1984), Marshall & Sugardjito (1986) and Tuttle (1986).

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
  - (a) *longimana* Schreber, [1774], as published in the binomen *Simia longimana*;
  - (b) *albirana* Vigors & Horsfield, 1828, as published in the binomen *Simia albirana*;
- (2) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *longimana* Schreber, [1774], as published in the binomen *Simia longimana* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
  - (b) *albirana* Vigors & Horsfield, 1828, as published in the binomen *Simia albirana* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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