

THE STATUS OF THE SUBSPECIFIC NAME *PTERNISTES AFER*
VAR. *ANGOLENSIS* BOCAGE, 1893 (AVES)
Z.N.(S.) 1548

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Bocage (1893, *Jorn. Sci. math. phys. e nat. Acad. Real. Sci. Lisboa* (2) 3 : 154), in the last paragraph of an article reproduced in facsimile herewith (pl. 16) describing a new variety of francolin from Galanga, Benguella district, used the name *angolensis* for this bird, although he had named it *Pternistes afer* var. *benguellensis* in the title. As far as can be ascertained, the name *benguellensis* has been used exclusively since then for the subspecies and *angolensis* was not used until listed in the synonymy of *P. a. benguellensis* by Bowen in 1930 (*Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 82 : 157). The purpose of the present application is to seek as simple a ruling as possible that will deprive the name of any rights under the Law of Homonymy.

2. Hall (1963 *Bull. Brit. Mus. nat. Hist. (Zool.)*, 10 (2) : 175-6) drew attention to the above facts and said that an application would be made to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for *angolensis* to be rejected as a *nomen oblitum*. This would secure the object of establishing *benguellensis* as the valid name for this subspecies of *P. afer*, but it is also desirable that *angolensis* Bocage, 1893, should not rank as a senior secondary homonym of *Francolinus coqui angolensis* Rothschild, 1903 (a name in uninterrupted use since its publication) for those zoologists who merge *Pternistes* in *Francolinus*. It has now been pointed out to me that a name rejected under Article 23b as a *nomen oblitum* retains its rights under the Law of Homonymy, so that this part of the problem would not be solved by the course of action originally proposed.

3. The status of *Pternistes afer angolensis* Bocage, 1893, is not immediately clear, but it seems that it can be regarded in any of the following ways:

- (a) it is a *lapsus calami* for *benguellensis* and as such has no standing as an available name;
- (b) it is one of two names published simultaneously for the same taxon and can be dealt with under the First Reviser rule; as such it would become a junior objective synonym of *benguellensis* and would be an available name;
- (c) it is a *nomen oblitum* to be rejected under Article 23b, still retaining its rights as an available name for the purposes of the Law of Homonymy.

4. The status of the name controls the action to be taken to dispose of it. There are in fact three possible courses:

- (i) the Commission could adopt (a) above and rule that the name is not available;
- (ii) the Commission could adopt either (b) or (c) above and use its plenary powers to suppress the name for the purposes of the Law of Priority and for those of the Law of Homonymy; this, however, seems excessively drastic action in so small a matter;

- (iii) still adopting either (b) or (c) above, the Commission could rule that Article 59c must apply and decline to take any action; this, however, would not serve uniformity of nomenclature, because it would mean that two subspecific names would be simultaneously current for the subspecies named *F. c. angolensis* by Rothschild in 1903—one by those zoologists who merge *Pternistes* in *Francolinus*, and another by those who recognize the two genera as distinct.

5. It is my submission that the simplest solution to the problem is to regard *P. a. angolensis* Bocage, 1893, as a *lapsus calami* for *P. a. benguellensis* Bocage, 1893, and in consequence as without status in zoological nomenclature. I therefore ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to rule that the subspecific name *angolensis* Bocage, 1893, as published in the combination *Pternistes afer* var. *angolensis*, is a *lapsus calami* for the subspecific name *benguellensis* Bocage, 1893, as published in the combination *Pternistes afer* var. *benguellensis* and that as such it has no status in zoological nomenclature;
- (2) to place the subspecific name *angolensis* Bocage, 1893, as published in the combination *Pternistes afer* var. *angolensis*, declared in (1) above to have no status in zoological nomenclature, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology.



Hall, B. P. 1969. "The status of the subspecific name *Pternistes afer* var. *angolensis* Bocage, 1893 (Aves) Z.N. (S.) 1548." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 26, 91–92. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.9867>.

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