

**SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL MADE BY CHARLES VAURIE
FOR THE SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE
PAMPHLET BY R. B. HORNIMAN ENTITLED "PRELIMINARY
DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW BIRDS"**

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 782)

(For the proposal in this case see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11 : 344-346)

(a) By **RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, Jr.**

(*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, U.S.A.*)

(Letter dated 3rd October 1956)

I wish to record that I am in favour of suppressing for nomenclatorial purposes, under the Plenary Powers of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the pamphlet by R. B. Horniman, entitled "Preliminary Descriptions of Some New Birds", as outlined by Dr. Charles Vaurie in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

(b) By **ALDEN H. MILLER**

(*University of California*)

(Letter dated 5th October 1956)

At the request of Charles Vaurie I have examined his proposal in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. I find myself in favour of avoiding the use of the names in the pamphlet by Horniman, but I would prefer that this be done by ruling that the item has not been "published" in a technical sense. I see no real reason for going beyond and setting aside the names otherwise.

(c) By **H. E. WOLTERS**

(*Aachen, W. Germany*)

(Letter dated 12th October 1956)

While I cannot do anything to solve the question whether or not Horniman's paper has been duly published under the rules, having not seen a copy myself, I think that it is highly desirable that Horniman's names be suppressed, not because they have been ignored by later authors, an argument that would hold good in the case of newly found old names only, but because the pamphlet is so rare that it can be seen by hardly any ornithologist, which would create an everlasting source of trouble in defining the exact meaning of Horniman's names, especially as the new subspecies and species described by the author are of doubtful validity. Therefore I am prepared to support Dr. Vaurie's view that Horniman's names should be suppressed.

(d) By **G. NIETHAMMER**

(*Bonn, W. Germany*)

(Letter dated 12th October 1956)

I have read the paper of Charles Vaurie published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, and I should like to tell you that I agree with the proposal of Mr. Vaurie as given in his paper No. 6.

(e) By **GUY MOUNTFORT**
(Hon. Sec., British Ornithologists' Union, London)

(Letter dated 12th October 1956)

I strongly support Dr. Vaurie's views on the Horniman pamphlet, as set out in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

I feel that the best course would be for the Commission to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the Horniman pamphlet for nomenclatorial purposes, and that this might be a more desirable solution than to declare the pamphlet not to have been "published", in view of the lack of information concerning its author's whereabouts. Not to take action in this matter would be to perpetuate an embarrassing situation which is bound to cause confusion.

(f) By **R. VERHEYEN**
(Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique)

(Letter dated 12th October 1956)

Par l'intermédiaire de notre Collègue M. Charles Vaurie je viens de recevoir "the proposed suppression for nomenclatorial purposes of Horniman's pamphlet: *Preliminary Descriptions of some new Birds*".

Je ne reconnais la publication de Horniman ni de nom ni de fait, étant donné que l'auteur a négligé de veiller à la bonne divulgation de son pamphlet. Je me rallie donc la proposition de supprimer.

(g) By **R. E. MOREAU**
(British Ornithologists' Union)

(Letter dated 17th October 1956)

I am entirely in favour of the suppression of the Horniman pamphlet for nomenclatorial purposes under the Plenary Powers.

(h) By **ERWIN STRESEMANN**
(Berlin)

(Letter dated 19th October 1956)

I wish to state that I am in favour of Dr. Ch. Vaurie's proposal referring to H. B. Horniman's "Preliminary Description . . . 1940", as expressed in the *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*

(i) By **JEAN DORST**
(Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France)

(Letter dated 20th October 1956)

Je viens de recevoir une lettre du Dr. Ch. Vaurie, New York, ainsi qu'un tiré à part d'une note parue dans le *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* concernant un écrit de H. B. Horniman.

Il me semble évident que si cet écrit est considéré comme valide au point de vue nomenclature, il entraînerait des changements regrettables, et sans signification pour la systématique vraie. Vous connaissez mon point de vue sur la nécessité d'une nomenclature aussi stable que possible. Aussi je crois qu'il importe que la Commission de Nomenclature zoologique adopte les conclusions du Dr. Vaurie, qui me semblent judicieuses.

(j) By **PROF. DR. K. H. VOOUS**

(*Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam*)

(Letter dated 23rd October 1956)

With reference to the communication by Dr. Charles Vaurie, "Proposed suppression for nomenclatorial purposes under the Plenary Powers of a pamphlet by R. B. Horniman entitled 'Preliminary descriptions of some new birds' and bearing the date 'January 1940'" in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, I take pleasure in informing you that for the sake of stability in ornithological nomenclature I am supporting the three propositions made by Dr. Vaurie to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature on this subject. I much regret that it has apparently not been possible to take up contact with the author, Mr. R. B. Horniman, since it is a very unusual case to suppress so recent a paper without any comment by the author himself or about the scientific standing and activities of the author.

**COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL MADE BY DAVID RIDE ET AL.
CONCERNING THE HOTTENTOT TEAL**

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 794)

(For the proposal in this case see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12 : 35-48)

(a) By **V. G. L. van SOMEREN**

(*The Sanctuary, Ngong, Kenya*)

(Letter dated 10th October 1956)

I have just received the above-mentioned paper. The evidence submitted by the applicants is, in my opinion, inconclusive that the type of *Anas punctata* Burchell was in fact *E. maccoa*, although the specimen within the packet bearing the labels quoted is that species.

It can be argued that Burchell must have had a specimen before him when he wrote the description quoted in para. 4, and would suggest the then existence of another specimen, since the description does not, in my opinion, fit any phase in the plumage of *E. maccoa*, either male or female, that I know of.

However, since the applicants state, para. 5, "that the specimen . . . agrees closely with Burchell's description" it would appear necessary for the Commission to examine the specimen in question. The applicants do not state approximate age (adult, subadult, juvenile), or sex of the specimen to account for apparent discrepancy between description and *maccoa* as generally depicted.

If the Commission is satisfied that the description and the specimen do indeed tally, then I would support the application to suppress the name *punctata* Burchell, 1822, as proposed in paragraph 6 on the ground that (a) that the description is not reasonably recognisable as *maccoa*, and indeed has been taken to apply to the Hottentot Teal, (b) by long usage, *punctata* has been applied to and generally accepted as the Hottentot Teal and no other.

(b) By **J. S. TAYLOR**

(*Port Elizabeth, South Africa*)

(Letter dated 26th September 1956)

With reference to the Hottentot Teal, *Anas punctata* Burchell, I am in full agreement with the proposed action.



Paynter, Raymond A. 1956. "Support for the proposal made by Charles Vaurie for the suppression under the Plenary Powers of the pamphlet by R. B. Horniman entitled "Preliminary descriptions of some new birds"." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 12, 309–311.

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