

A System of Alternative Nomenclatures of Supra-species Taxa Linnaean and Post-Linnaean Principles of Systematics

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Abstract—Names of animal taxa are presently used according to the two controversial principles, the ranking and volumetric ones. To the ranking names belong those from unified nomenclatures (including the ICZN nomenclature) and some non-unified names. To volumetric names belong various non-unified names, the ranking nomenclature is applicable enough to species names, while for supra-species taxa the volumetric nomenclature is preferable. When the ranking nomenclature is used for supra-species taxa, a sharp disagreement between the systematic taxon (i.e. a subject interesting for taxonomists) and the nomenclatural taxon (i.e. a subject to which names are given) appears, which may lead to mythogenesis (Kluge, 1996). Here, a system of nomenclatural rules is proposed, incorporating the ICZN as a part. In addition to the rules for the ranking and volumetric names, rules for hierarchical names based on the ICZN are proposed. Hierarchical nomenclature is more convenient than the ranking one and can be used for providing names to supra-species taxa which have no volumetric names. All the rules proposed here do not contradict with the ICZN and do not threaten the stability of the names in use. A convenient form is proposed for taxonomical text lacking ranks.