(207–213) Proposals to specify the eligible journal for submitting proposals or requests to the General Committee

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.12705/652.45

According to the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN; McNeill & al. in Regnum. Veg. 154. 2012) proposals to conserve names (Art. 14.12 and 14.13), proposals to reject names (Art. 56.2 and 56.3), proposals to suppress works (Art. 34.1), and requests for binding decisions on valid publication (Art. 38.4) and homonymy (Art. 53.5) must be submitted to the General Committee. Traditionally these proposals and requests are so submitted by means of publication in Taxon. In spite of this apparently obvious place of publication we have been asked to review some proposals to conserve and reject names submitted to different scientific journals. Turland, in The Code Decoded (Regnum Veg. 155: 75–76. 2013), indicates that “Submission of a proposal is by publication in Taxon, the journal of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy”. In addition, McNeill & al. (in Taxon 64: 163–166. 2015) make it clear that publication in Taxon constitutes submission to the General Committee. However, this information does not appear explicitly as a rule or even a recommendation in the ICN. Thus there is no formal impediment to publication in other journals, whether or not they have a taxonomic focus. Evidently, if the authors want their proposals or requests to be considered by the General Committee they either need to publish them in a scientific journal or send a letter to the Committee.

We consider that these proposals and requests must be published in one or a few eligible taxonomic journals in order to maintain standardization and for best management and review by the General Committee. There would be nothing to preclude, at a future International Botanical Congress, the ICN being amended to permit one or two new eligible journals. However, at this time, by tradition, the eligible journal is Taxon. We are therefore suggesting the following amendments:

(207) Amend Art. 14.12 as follows and add a footnote (new text in bold):

“14.12. The lists of conserved names will remain permanently open for additions and changes. Any proposal of an additional name must be accompanied by a detailed statement of the cases both for and against conservation. Such proposals must be submitted by publication in the journal Taxon1 to the General Committee (see Div. III), which will refer them for examination to the committees for the various taxonomic groups (see also Art. 34.1 and 56.2).”

[footnote] 1 Taxon is the journal of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT).

(208) Amend Art. 14.13 as follows (new text in bold):

“14.13. In the interest of nomenclatural stability, for organisms treated as fungi (including lichenicolous fungi, but excluding lichen-forming fungi and those fungi traditionally associated with them taxonomically, e.g. Mycocaliciaceae), lists of names may be submitted by publication in the journal Taxon to the General Committee, which will refer them to the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi (see Div. III) for examination by subcommittees established by that Committee in consultation with the General Committee and appropriate international bodies. […]”

(209) Amend Art. 34.1 as follows (new text in bold):

“34.1. Names in specified ranks included in publications listed as suppressed works (opera utique oppressa; App. VI) are not validly published. Proposals for the addition of publications to App. VI must be submitted by publication in the journal Taxon to the General Committee (see Div. III), which will refer them for examination to the committees for the various taxonomic groups (see Rec. 34A; see also Art. 14.12 and 56.2).”

(210) Amend Art. 38.4 as follows (new text in bold):

“38.4. When it is doubtful whether a descriptive statement satisfies the requirement of Art. 38.1(a) for a “description or diagnosis”, a request for a decision may be submitted by publication in the journal Taxon to the General Committee (see Div. III), which will refer it for examination to the Committee for the appropriate taxonomic group. […]”

(211) Amend Art. 53.5 as follows (new text in bold):

“53.5. When it is doubtful whether names or their epithets are sufficiently alike to be confused, a request for a decision may be submitted by publication in the journal Taxon to the General Committee (see Div. III), which will refer it for examination to the committee(s) for the appropriate taxonomic group(s). […]”

(212) Amend Art. 56.2 as follows (new text in bold):

“56.2. The list of nomina utique rejicienda (suppressed names) will remain permanently open for additions and changes. Any proposal for rejection of a name must be accompanied by a detailed statement of the cases both for and against its rejection, including considerations of typification. Such proposals must be submitted by publication in the journal Taxon to the General Committee (see Div. III), which will refer them for examination to the committees for the various taxonomic groups (see also Art.14.12 and 34.1).”

(213) Amend Art. 56.3 as follows (new text in bold):

“56.3. In the interest of nomenclatural stability, for organisms treated as fungi (including lichenicolous fungi, but excluding lichen-forming fungi and those fungi traditionally associated with them taxonomically, e.g. Mycocaliciaceae), lists of names to be rejected may be submitted by publication in the journal Taxon to the General
Committee, which will refer them to the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi (see Div. III) for examination by subcommittees established by that Committee in consultation with the General Committee and appropriate international bodies. [...]”

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to N. Turland for valuable comments to improve this text. AFPM is supported by FAPESB fellowship (No. BOL0563/2014).