

The correct date and introduction of *Pityriasis* Lesson, and a note on the correct spelling of the associated family-group name

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ABSTRACT: The generic name *Pityriasis* Lesson is shown to have been introduced two years earlier than usually supposed, in volume eight of the *Complément Oeuvres Buffon*, in 1837. Evidence is presented that the correct stem for a family-group name based on *Pityriasis* is Pityriase-, and that therefore the family-group name introduced by Mayr and Amadon in 1951 (Pityriasidinae) needs emending.

KEYWORDS: *Pityriasis*, Lesson, Borneo, correct date, *gymnocephala*, Temminck, Pityriasidinae, Pityriaseinae.

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The generic name for the unique Bornean Bristlehead is usually cited as *Pityriasis* Lesson, 1839, *Revue Zoologique*, volume 2, number 5 (Mai), p. 136 (Lesson, 1839a). Here Lesson listed the *rares ou nouveaux* birds in the collection of Dr Abeillé. This citation was used by C. D. Sherborn, in the *Index Animalium*, pt. XX (Sherborn, 1929: 4999), A. L. Rand, in the continuation of James L. Peters, *Check-list of Birds of the World*, volume IX (Rand, 1960: 364), and followed by all workers since then, including H. E. Wolters, *Die Vogelarten der Erde*, lief., 3 (Wolters, 1977: 221).

In reviewing the generic names to be used in the forthcoming update to the *Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*, it was found that Lesson had introduced this name two years earlier, in volume eight of his *Histoire Naturelle générale et particulière*, more frequently referred to as the *Complément Oeuvres Buffon*, which appears on the half-title. In the first edition, 'oiseaux' are named on the title pages to volumes six to nine, and the title page to volume eight bears the date M DCCC XXXVII (1837). The date for volume eight is confirmed in the *Nomenclator animalium*, Litteraturverzeichnis (Anonymous, 1926: CXCIV).

Here, Lesson (1837: 397) clearly named the genus for *Barita gymnocephala* Temm[inck]., as *pityriasis*. He did not use an upper-case initial letter, but at that time, and in this work, that was his usual practise. Many other generic names from this work have had long acceptance, including *Turnagra* (p. 216) from this volume, all of which have had the initial letter corrected, under Article 28, 'A genus-group name ... is always to begin with an upper-case initial letter, regardless of how they were originally published' (ICZN, 1999).

The correct citation is therefore as follows:

Pityriasis

Pityriasis Lesson, 1837 gender feminine

Complément Oeuvres Buffon, 8, p. 397.

Type by monotypy

Barita gymnocephala Temm[inck]. = *Barita gymnocephala* Temminck, 1836

Pityriasis gymnocephala (Temminck, 1836)

It should also be noted that this earlier citation removes the dual-spelling present in the *Revue Zoologique*, and that therefore *Ptyriasis* Lesson, 1839, (see Lesson, 1839b, p. 134) is simply an incorrect subsequent spelling, probably due to a typesetting error.

The Bristlehead was given a family-group name by E. Mayr and D. Amadon (1951: 37), where they named a subfamily Pityriasiidae. This was changed to Pityriasiinae in Mayr and Greenway, Jr. (1960: 364), and Pityriasiinae in W. Bock (1994: 158) without comment. *Pityriasis* is a Greek word, πτυρίασις, meaning scurf, referring to the appearance of the head. Following Article 29.3.1, 'the stem is found by deleting the case ending of the appropriate genitive singular'; Normand David (*in litt.*) has advised that the genitive of this feminine noun is πτυρίασιος-ως. The stem is therefore Pityriasi- and the family-group name should be Pityriasiidae, when used at the rank of family, as given by Bock (1994: 158).

It should further be noted that Mayr and Amadon's (1951) introduction of the name did not meet the requirements of Article 13, names published after 1930, in that no description or definition accompanied it, but that it was used as valid before 2000, G. G. Olivier, in Thomson, A. L. (ed.), 1964, *New Dictionary of Birds*, pp. 732–736 (Olivier, 1964), and thereby made available from its original publication under Article 13.2.1 of the ICZN Code (ICZN, 1999).

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