

NOTES FOR AUTHORS ON THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE (ST LOUIS CODE) 2000

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With the publication of the most recent edition of the ICBN, a number of changes that will affect the publication of names of organisms covered by the Code and their typification have been made. Authors, especially of taxonomic papers, are urged to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the new Code. As some of the changes influencing publication of names begin on 1 January 2001, papers at present in preparation will be affected. A very brief summary of some major requirements is given below.

Types

The categories of types are defined in Article 9. Terms such as lectotype, neotype, paratype, *etc.* are often used imprecisely and the definitions given in Art. 9 should help prevent this. Such imprecise use is now regarded as an error to be corrected (Art. 9.8). The status of epitypes (specimens or illustrations to serve as interpretive types when the holotype, lectotype, neotype or all the original material associated with a description is ambiguous and cannot be critically identified for purposes of precise application of the name) is clarified in Art. 9.18–9.19, where the conditions governing their selection and specification are set out.

Designation of a type

Designation of a type by the publishing author is, for the purposes of priority, achieved only if the type is definitely accepted as the type by the typifying author, if the type element is clearly and directly specified, including the term 'type' (typus) or an equivalent, and on or after 1 January 2001, if the statement of typification includes the words 'here designated' (*hic designatus*) or equivalent (Art. 7.11). For the name of a new genus or lower rank published on or after 1 January 1990, specification of the type must include one of the words 'typus' or 'holotypus', or an abbreviation or equivalent in a modern language (Art. 37.5).

On or after 1 January 1990, lectotypification or neotypification of the name of a species or lower rank by a specimen or an unpublished illustration is not effective unless the herbarium or institution in which the type is kept is specified (Art. 9.20).

On or after 1 January 2001, lectotypification or neotypification of the name of a species or lower rank is not effective unless the term 'lectotypus' or 'neotypus', its abbreviation, or its equivalent in a modern language is used (Art. 9.21). As noted above, use of such terms in an incorrect or imprecise manner is an error to be corrected (Art. 9.8).

In the listing of specimens accompanying the original description, the type should be clearly identified by its collection data, including collection number, accession number, *etc.* and the herbarium, culture collection, *etc.* in which it is lodged clearly indicated.

Copies of the Code are available from Koeltz Scientific Books, P.O. 1360, D-61453 Königstein, Germany [E-mail address: koeltz@t-online.de].