



Ex Africa semper aliquid novi

HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

Founded 1965

Statement Regarding Taxonomic Publications

Among many herpetological topics, the *African Journal of Herpetology* publishes papers of a taxonomic nature, including taxon descriptions and other nomenclatural acts. Authors, editors and reviewers should recognize that taxonomy and nomenclature are separate but intimately intertwined disciplines. In keeping with *the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* we recognize that “taxonomic freedom” should be respected, while nomenclature should be consistent with the latest version of the *Code*.

As a publication outlet, *AJH* respects differences of taxonomic opinion, but takes into account the expectations that modern works of a taxonomic nature should be peer-reviewed, should avoid conflicts of interest (or be transparent in acknowledging where conflicts might be suspected), and should be published in accredited journals or journals with clear and ethical policies with respect to plagiarism and other forms of professional malpractice.

At a minimum, authors are expected to publish original results and data in an ethical manner and taking into account data integrity, sound and thoroughly explained methodology, full attribution of sources, reproducibility of results, crediting of participants in the research endeavour and their contributions, and acknowledgement of funding and any institutional support.

The editors and editorial board of *African Journal of Herpetology*, comprising responsible experts who seek to maintain the integrity of the journal, reserve the right to reject submissions that are inconsistent with these principles. Within taxonomic works, the provisions of the *Code* should be followed. However, the editors of *AJH* are cognizant of the issue of taxonomic vandalism which can place taxonomists in the impossible position of having to reject the words of the *Code* in order to maintain its principles.

AJH welcomes differences of taxonomic opinion by authors and reviewers but only when all participants engage in civil discourse rooted in sound and ethically conducted science.