

# HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

(Founded in 1965)



Ex Africa semper  
aliquid novi

## Statement Regarding Taxonomic Principles Upheld by the Herpetological Association of Africa

An important aspect of herpetology is the field of taxonomy, whereby taxa are classified and described. 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 society, we acknowledge there can be differences of interpretation of data or evidence to uphold taxonomic decisions. Nevertheless, we expect that modern works of a taxonomic nature will 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, including the use of self-publishing. Authors are expected to publish original results and data in an ethical manner and ensure 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.

As a society, we uphold these principles, and therefore, taxonomic revisions not meeting these standards need not be considered or acknowledged as constituting valid taxonomy. In such cases, the taxonomic names need not be listed in major databases, nor listed in chresonomy. We therefore choose to support only the taxonomic works that are published in accredited journals or those that otherwise can be included on accreditation lists (see below). We are within our rights to disregard works that appear in predatory journals/predatory publishing groups (see [Beall’s List](#), [Predatory Reports](#)) or any form of self-published journals.

### Accredited Journal Lists (related to Herpetology)

Clarivate - [Web of Science](#)

South African Department of Higher Education and Training (updated annually)

- List of DHET accredited journals via [SABINET](#)
- Further information can be found in this [standards document](#)

[Norwegian Register for scientific journals, series and publishers](#)

[SciElo SA](#)

[Scopus](#)

[Directory of Open Access Journals](#)

Approved by HAA Committee 16/2/2024