

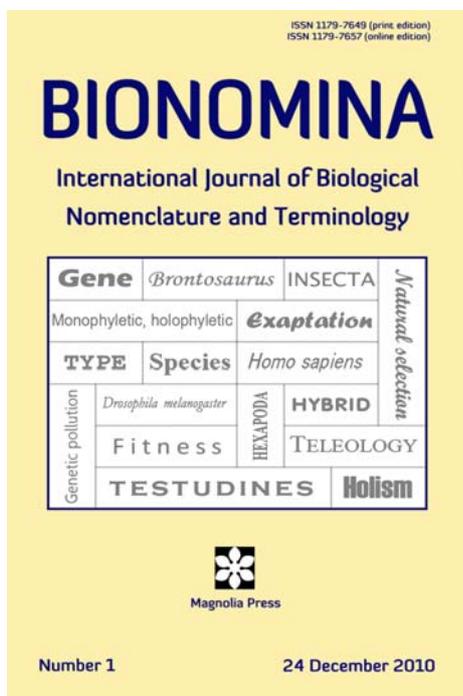
# BIONOMINA

## (International Journal of Biological Nomenclature and Terminology)

Should we write Hexapoda or Insecta, Testudines or Chelonii, systematics or taxonomy, character or attribute, monophyletic or holophyletic, rank or category? What is the origin and meaning of the terms gene, induction, species, hybrid, hybridogenesis, klepton, relacter, fitness, exaptation, natural selection, genetic pollution, holism, teleology?

Science does not consist only in “facts” and data, but also in theories, hypotheses and concepts. An unambiguous and efficient communication between scientists, and between them and society as a whole, requires the use of well defined terms, understood in the same way by all. Many scientific errors, debates and polemics take their roots in misunderstandings that result from the use of a vague terminology or in an approximate or erroneous nomenclature. In this domain, “common sense” is rarely a good guide, as was aptly stressed by Bertrand Russell in 1953:

*“No one wants to alter the language of common sense, any more than we wish to give up talking of the sun rising and setting. But astronomers find a different language better, and I contend that a different language is better in philosophy. (...) I conclude that common sense, whether correct or incorrect in the use of words, does not know in the least what words are. I wish I could believe that this conclusion would render it speechless.”*



So far, no journal in the world was devoted specifically to the questions posed by scientific language, particularly in the domain of biology. This will be the purpose of *Bionomina*, published, simultaneously online and in paper version, in New Zealand by Magnolia Press (publisher of *Zootaxa*, *Phytotaxa*, *Zoosymposia* and *Molluscan Research*). This journal will deal with all questions related to the “language of biology” in a transversal and pluridisciplinary approach, touching biology, epistemology, linguistics, translation, history of sciences, sociology and philosophy. The journal can be accessed by the link: <<http://www.mapress.com/bionomina/>>.

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