

NOMENCLATURE

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Authorship of the Name Anolidae

I recently called attention to an often-overlooked publication by Cocteau (1836) that used the family name Anolidae, establishing that name as a senior synonym of the name Dactyloidae (attributed to Fitzinger 1843) and thus as the valid (correct) name of the family including both *Dactyloa* and *Anolis* under rank-based nomenclature (de Queiroz 2022). Subsequently, I was informed of an even earlier publication of the name Anolidae by Guilding (1834) in an article that is not primary taxonomic, thus raising the question as to whether authorship of that name is properly attributed to Cocteau (1836) or Guilding (1834). After examining Guilding's (1834) article and several of his other publications, his publication of the name Anolidae appears to qualify as establishing (making available) that family-group name. Therefore, Guilding rather than Cocteau is appropriately considered the author of that name.

The critical issue is whether Guilding (1834) clearly used Anolidae “as a scientific name to denote a suprageneric taxon and not merely as a plural noun or adjective referring to the members of a genus” (ICZN 1999: Art. 11.7.1.2). It appears that he did. First, Guilding used the -idae ending, which was proposed as a standard termination by Kirby (1813) and eventually became codified as the standard termination for taxa assigned to the rank of family (Strickland et al. 1843; ICZN 1905, 1999: Art. 29.2). Although that termination had not been universally adopted by 1834, it had been adopted in several herpetological works (e.g., Bell 1825; Gray 1825, 1827; Bonaparte 1831), and Guilding had adopted it (or the similar ending -adae) in association with the rank of family both implicitly (e.g., Guilding 1824a, b) and explicitly (e.g., Guilding 1828a, b) in his earlier works (his 1834 paper was published posthumously).

Second, although Guilding (1834) did not refer to Anolidae as a family, he did refer to it as a tribe (p. 583), and although that term could have been used as a general term for a group of related species, Guilding had used it as a formal suprageneric rank previously (Guilding 1827, 1829). The zoological code requires only that the name was used to denote a suprageneric taxon and not specifically one ranked as a family.

Third, the name Anolidae is not of the form that would be expected for the plural of *Anolis* (i.e., of a plural noun used to

refer to multiple organisms or species of the genus designated by that name). Although the name *Anolis* is thought to be derived from a native language of the Americas (Daudin 1802; Lesser Antillean Arawak according to Merriam-Webster.com), if latinized, it would presumably take the form of a noun in the third declension. Genus names, both currently and historically, take the form of nouns in the nominative singular (ICZN 1999: Art. 11.8; Brown 1956), and those that have -is endings in the nominative singular are normally in the third declension (e.g., *canis*, dog; *ignis*, fire; *turris*, tower) (Brown 1956). The nominative plurals of such nouns end in -es (Brown 1956); thus, the nominative plural of *Anolis* would be *Anoles* or *Anolides*. In fact, some authors have used one or the other of those spellings seemingly as the plural form of *Anolis* (e.g., Boulenger 1885:3, 73; Gosse 1850:68, 87, 94, 129 for *Anoles*; Tilesius von Tilenau 1820:314; Sumichrast 1864:507 for *Anolides*).

Thus, it seems that Guilding's (1834) publication of the name Anolidae satisfies the requirements for establishment under the zoological code (i.e., it is an available name), and therefore authorship of that name should be attributed to Guilding (1834) rather than to Cocteau (1836). In any case, Anolidae remains the correct name of the family containing the genus *Anolis* as currently recognized (e.g., Uetz et al. 2022) under rank-based nomenclature.

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KEVIN DE QUEIROZ

Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Division of Amphibians and Reptiles,
National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C., 20560, USA;
e-mail: dequeirozk@si.edu

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