

NOMENCLATURAL NOTE

Reasserting the valid name of the Curl-crested Aracari (Aves, RAMPHASTIDAE): *Pteroglossus beauharnaisii* Wagler, 1831

Normand David

202-53 Hasting, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Québec, Canada, H9G 3C4
(normanddavid@videotron.ca)

Rick Wright

128 Evans Road, Bloomfield, NJ 07003, USA
(birdaz@gmail.com)

Andy Elliott

c/o Lynx Edicions, Montseny 8, E-08193 Bellaterra, Catalunya, Spain
(andycp@lynxeds.com)

Thiago V. V. Costa

Instituto de Recursos Naturais, Universidade Federal de Itajubá
Av. BPS, 1303, Bairro Pinheirinho CEP 37500-903, Itajubá, MG Brazil
(tvvcosta@gmail.com)

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Abstract. As demonstrated by Wright (2015), the Curl-crested Aracari was originally named *Pteroglossus beauharnaisii* by Wagler in 1831; in the following year, the same author used the subsequent combination *P. beauharnaesii* (Wagler, 1832). Based on the evidence, Wright concluded that the valid name of the taxon was *Pteroglossus beauharnaisii*. Bock & Schodde (2016) disagreed, arguing that *beauharnaisii* was not used after 1899 and was thus a nomen oblitum, while *beauharnaesii* had been universally applied and should be used. Here, those objections are refuted, based on the facts and correct application of the articles in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (hereafter the Code; ICZN, 1999) invoked by Bock & Schodde (2016).

Keywords. Nomenclature; Aves; RAMPHASTIDAE; *Pteroglossus beauharnaisii*; *Pteroglossus beauharnaesii*; incorrect subsequent spelling; nomen oblitum; Curl-crested Aracari; Johann Georg Wagler; Amazon.

The Curl-crested Aracari, a distinctive species occurring in central and southwestern Amazonia, was formally described by J. G. Wagler (1831: 470) in the Munich daily *Das Ausland*. Wagler named the new species *Pteroglossus Beauharnaisii*, a combination that he used twice therein, in honour of his patron, Auguste Napoléon de Beauharnais. For further details, see Wright (2015), who also showed that the criteria of publication set forth in Article 8 of the Code were met by Wagler's 1831 description.

In the following year, Wagler (1832) provided a more complete description in Latin of the same species in *Isis von Oken* 25: 280. We find it useful to offer here a translation (RW) of Wagler's accompanying German text:

This *Pteroglossus*, quite remarkable for the bizarre structure of its head plumage, does not seem to be particularly rare in the Province of Para, as the aforementioned ducal ethnographical collection contains feather garments from there that are lavishly ornamented with the head feathers of this species. I have already provided a brief notice of it in the magazine "Das Ausland" 1830 [sic], no. 118, page 470. I do not know any other bird apart from this species and *Anastomus lamelligerus* [the African Openbill] with such unusual feathers, resembling shiny shavings of horn.

The erroneous date "1830" for his earlier paper is a simple typographic error: the 1830 volume of *Das Ausland* contains no article by Wagler in issue 118 (<https://tinyurl.com/y2842wyk>).

In this 1832 *Isis* publication, the specific name appears only once, where it is spelled *Beauharnaesii*. The 1832 spelling *beauharnaesii* differs from the 1831 original spelling (hereafter OS), and is an incorrect subsequent spelling (Article 33.3 of the Code; hereafter ISS). Wagler's own text demonstrates that the spelling indisputably refers to the same species and indeed to the same type specimen as in his 1831 publication (see Costa et al., 2017). The 1832 spelling does not meet the criteria to be considered an emendation—effectively an intentional modification (justified or unjustified) of the spelling—under the Code (Art. 33.2), and is instead an ISS.

The historical usage of the two forms of the name is of great interest. After the original description of the taxon in 1831, the spelling *beauharnaisii* remained the standard spelling well into the twentieth century, used by Sturm & Sturm (1847: pl. XXXII), Bonaparte (1850: 95), Chenu (1850: 10), Gray (1855: 85), Bates (1863: 336, 343), Forgues (1863: 733), Gould (1854: 10, 19, and twice in text accompanying Plate XXV), Hartlaub (1864: 27), Cassin (1867: 114), Pelzeln (1871: 238), Schlegel (1872: 87), Kingston (1874: 487), Wallace (1876: 28), Goeldi (1894: 134), Hagemann (1906: 296), Savage-Landor (1913: 144), Hellmayr (1928: 294), and effectively until changed by Peters (1948: 78), who used *beauharnaesii* and cited it to Wagler (1832).

During the same period, another ISS, *beauharnaisi*, (see Art. 33.4), was used with nearly equal frequency in the following works: Gould (1854: pl. XXV and once in accompanying text), Sclater (1857: 267), Sclater & Salvin (1873: 297), Salvin (1882: 451), Taczanowski (1886: 152), Allen (1889: 103), Berlepsch (1889a: 181), Berlepsch (1889b: 312), Sclater (1891: 148), Dubois (1900: 43), Sharpe (1900: 192), Ihering & Ihering (1907: 169), Sneathlaga (1908a: 63), Sneathlaga (1908b: 20), Knowlton (1909: 584), Brabourne & Chubb (1912: 159), Reichenow (1914: 35), Sneathlaga (1914: 222), Chandler (1916: 273), and Cory (1919: 373). Note that Gould (1854: 10, 19) used the OS *beauharnaisii* in the same monograph, and that Wallace (1853: 462, 475) used *beauharnasii*, yet another ISS.

In contrast, the ISS *beauharnaesii* seems to have been used in only four works before 1948, by Hartlaub (1864: 14), Hellmayr (1907: 399), Hellmayr (1910: 400), and Pinto (1938: 333) —note that Hellmayr himself reverted to the OS in 1928. In addition, Hartlaub used the ISS *beauharnaesii* when reporting on Bates (1863), but later in his report he used the OS *beauharnaisii* (p. 27).

Wright (2015) discussed the nomenclatural history of this taxon, and concluded that the OS was valid and correct, and should be used. Bock & Schodde (2016) claimed that Wright's conclusion was overruled by the provisions of the Code on various different counts. Their claims must be scrutinized.

Although only three sentences long, Bock & Schodde's abstract thoroughly summarizes their case. Unfortunately, it presents misconceptions, confusions and inaccuracies. Let us examine it:

“Under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the valid form and source of the name for the well-known Curl-crested Aracari should remain *Pteroglossus beauharnaesii* Wagler, 1832. Although it is an incorrect subsequent spelling, its challenger, *Pteroglossus beauharnaisii*, is a *nomen oblitum*. *Pteroglossus beauharnaesii* Wagler, 1832 has been in universal use since 1900, and it is protected either by Article 23.9 or 33.3.1 of the Code, depending on the interpretation of the way the younger name was introduced.”

Not only do Bock & Schodde err in their overall conclusion (“[the spelling]... should remain... *beauharnaesii*”), as we shall demonstrate below, but the Code specifically states (Article 33.3.1) that in the event of an ISS claiming precedence through prevailing usage, the ISS is to take its date from that of the original publication of the name (i.e., of the original spelling)—in this case 1831 (not 1832, as claimed by Bock & Schodde). Indeed, whenever the OS of a name is altered in practice, whether it be a mandatory change (Art. 34.2), a justified emendation (Art. 32.5) or an ISS in prevailing usage, the Code specifies that the author and year are to remain the originals, as the modified versions of these names have no separate availability.

Bock & Schodde then assert the undisputed fact that *beauharnaesii* is an ISS of the original *beauharnaisii*, which they claim to be a *nomen oblitum*. Unfortunately, here they have confounded the concepts of (a) different names and (b) different spellings of the same name. The forms *beauharnaisii* and *beauharnaesii* are not different *nomina* but different spellings of the same *nomen*. The term *nomen oblitum* refers only to a name; it cannot and does not refer to a different spelling, as is made clear in the Glossary of the Code (p. 111).

Bock & Schodde (2016) stated that Wright (2015) treated the two spellings as different names, but nowhere does Wright state or even remotely imply this. Indeed, throughout his paper it is clear that Wright treats the two forms as different spellings of the same name.

Bock & Schodde then invoke Art. 23.9, but that article is applicable to different names, not different spellings. Article 23.5 explicitly states that priority can be inverted for spellings, but only when based on Art. 33.3.1 (see below).

Even if it were applicable here, Art. 23.9 requires that two conditions must necessarily be met, the first of which (Art. 23.9.1.1) is that “the senior synonym or homonym has not been used as a valid name after 1899”. As is evident from the list given above, *beauharnaisii*, the OS, *has* been used as the correct name after 1899 (and before Bock & Schodde, 2016) in at least five works: Hagemann (1906: 296), Savage-Landor (1913:

144), Hellmayr (1928: 294), Egerton (2012: 47), and Piacentini et al. (2015: 155). So even if Art. 23.9 were applicable in this case, the details would undeniably fail to satisfy the essential condition of Art. 23.9.1.1. Incidentally, during the same period, the ISS *beauharnaisi* was used in 11 works: Dubois (1900: 43), Sharpe (1900: 192), Ihering & Ihering (1907: 169), Snethlage (1908a: 63), Snethlage (1908b: 20), Knowlton (1909: 584), Brabourne & Chubb (1912: 159), Reichenow (1914: 35), Snethlage (1914: 222), Chandler (1916), and Cory (1919).

Bock & Schodde are quite wrong, therefore, to state in their abstract that "... *beauharnaesii* Wagler, 1832 has been in universal use since 1900..." In their main text (p. 679) they err further by claiming: "The latter [*beauharnaesii*] has been employed consistently for this high-profile aracari since the mid-19th century..." As seen above, that claim is inaccurate; in fact, between Wagler (1832) and Peters (1948) *beauharnaesii* was used in only four works (Hartlaub, 1864; Hellmayr, 1907, 1910; Pinto, 1938), while *beauharnaisii* was used in at least 17 works and *beauharnaisi* in at least 20 more (see above). It is true that after the publication of the very influential Peters (1948), the ISS *beauharnaesii* gained wide but not complete currency, but that does not change the requirements of the Code. More to the point, Article 23.9 remains irrelevant to this particular case, as we are dealing with different spellings of the same name—as Bock & Schodde readily admit in stating that *beauharnaesii* is an ISS.

As Art. 23.9 has been shown to be irrelevant to the present case, the only relevant Article is 33.3.1, which is also invoked by Bock & Schodde. That article states: "when an incorrect subsequent spelling is in prevailing usage *and is attributed to the publication of the original spelling* [italics ours], the subsequent spelling and attribution are to be preserved and the spelling is deemed to be a correct original spelling".

As the result of a thorough literature search, it has been demonstrated above that the spelling *beauharnaesii* fails to satisfy the prerequisites to qualify for prevailing usage, and Bock & Schodde's claim also fails definitively on the second requirement. This demands that the junior spelling "is attributed to the publication of the original spelling", namely *Das Ausland*, 1831. But, whenever specified, the ISS *beauharnaesii* is invariably cited to the 1832 *Isis* reference; we have been unable to find, and Bock & Schodde were unable to cite, a single case in which any author used *beauharnaesii* as the valid name and attributed it to Wagler (1831) in *Das Ausland*.

Bock & Schodde quote from the Preamble of the Code, stating that Priority of publication can be modified "...under conditions prescribed in the Code..." However, the prescribed conditions that they invoke are not satisfied. Article 23.5 states that priority in spellings can be inverted exclusively by means of Art. 33.3.1, and we find that this case clearly does not meet the requirements of Art. 33.3.1. We thus reaffirm the conclusion of Wright (2015) that the correct spelling and citation for this taxon must be *Pteroglossus beauharnaisii* Wagler, 1831.

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