



Section A: Area of work

A1. Please describe your area of expertise in your own words.

A2. Which of the following best describes your professional role?

- Data management and representation
- Archiving and library services
- Researcher
- Taxonomist
- Other

Other

A3. Which of the following would best describe your area of specialisation?

- Ecology
- Other biology/biodiversity
- Informatics
- Other

Other

Section B: Use of ontologies and other knowledge representation resources

This section is aimed at understanding more about your usage of resources such as ontologies, checklists and infrastructures relating to the scientific nomenclature.

B1. Please tick any of the following resources that you use in your work.

- Catalogue of Life



Vertebrate Taxonomy Ontology

Encyclopedia of Life

FishBase

NCBI classification

None of the above

Other

Other

- B2.** Please list any other knowledge representation resources (scientific nomenclature databases, checklists, ontologies) you use frequently.

- B3.** Choose from the reasons below why you use these resources. If you use these resources for other reasons too, you can add your own in the "other" section.

Check name variant status

Check taxon classification of name variant

Map data to resource

Compare taxon classification of name variant between resources

Use resource to annotate data

Other

Other

- B4.** Select from the following (or add) any problems you have with the resources.

Incomplete



- Conflicting information
- Inaccurate information
- Ambiguous information
- Lacking detail
- N/A
- Other

Other

B5. Select positive features of the resources from the following (or specify any not listed in the "other" section).

- Comprehensive
- Well-curated
- Accurate
- Clear
- Other

Other

B6. If you have any other comments about your experiences using scientific nomenclature knowledge representation resources (ontologies, taxonomies, checklists, databases) that were not covered in the previous questions, please leave them here.



Section C: Scientific nomenclature usage

This set of questions will ask you briefly about scientific nomenclature usage in general, the ambiguity or clarity in its usages, and your experience of this in your work.

C1. Which of the following characteristics would you associate with consistent scientific nomenclature usage?

- One variant
- Multiple variants
- Authorship
- Open nomenclature abbreviations
- One spelling
- Multiple spelling
- Static in time
- Geographical-specificity
- Time-dependent
- Other

Other

C2. Which of the following characteristics do you associate with ambiguous nomenclature usage?

- One variant
- Multiple variants
- Authorship
- Open nomenclature abbreviations
- One spelling
- Multiple spelling
- Static in time
- Geographical-specificity
- Time-dependent



Other

Other

C3. If applicable, please provide examples of taxa for which scientific nomenclature tends to be used:

Consistently

Comment

Ambiguously

Comment

Other

Other

C4. Which types of ambiguity do you face as regards scientific nomenclature in your work?

Vernacular usage

Contextual ambiguity

Inconsistent usage of authorship

N/A

Other

Other

C5. Are some types of ambiguity more difficult to deal with than others?

Yes

No

C6. Please order the types of ambiguity you have selected/provided in difficulty to handle (1 = most difficult to 3 = least difficult)

Vernacular usage

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Contextual ambiguity

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Inconsistent usage of authorship

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N/A

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Section D: Misspellings and synonyms

This section briefly asks you opinion about the usage of misspellings and synonyms in the scientific nomenclature.

D1. In the scientific nomenclature, where an accepted taxon name has a number of variants, do you consider them to be synonyms?

Yes No Depends

D2. If you do not consider variants to be synonyms, what do you consider them to be?

Invalid variants Variants Synonyms Alternatives Depends Other

Other

D3. How frequently do you come across variants in your work?

Very infrequently Infrequently Sometimes



Frequently

Very frequently

All the time

D4. Where do you see variants used more frequently (if anywhere)?

Academic journals

Citizen science articles

Webpages

Textbooks

All of the above

None of the above

Other

Other

D5. Does the use of these variants cause any ambiguity in your work?

Yes

No

D6. If they do cause ambiguity, can you describe what sort of ambiguity?

D7. How common are misspellings in the scientific literature?

Very rare

Rare

Uncommon

Common

Very common

All the time



D8. Do misspelled variants ever appear more frequently than the correctly spelled variant?

Yes

No

D9. If you know of any examples, please list here.

Section E: Usage and meaning of vernacular variants

This section will explore your opinions on vernacular name usage and its interplay with scientific nomenclature. It will also explore a little about possible ambiguity that can arise.

E1. How often do you come across vernacular variants of the nomenclature in your work?

Very infrequently

Infrequently

Sometimes

Frequently

Very frequently

All the time

E2. In your opinion, do vernacular variant names usually have a more specific or broader meaning?

Broader

More specific

E3. Which of the following bits of information (if any) can vernacular variants be used to convey, that are not conveyed by their scientific equivalents?

Geographical-specificity

Comment

Domain-specificity

Comment



Time-specificity

Comment

Context-specificity

Comment

Lifestage-specificity

Comment

Unknown variants

Comment

Other

Other

E4. Does the usage of common variants cause ambiguity in your work?

Yes

No

E5. What sort of ambiguity? Please order the types of ambiguity in order of importance (1 = most important, 5 = least important).

1 2 3 4 5

Cover multiple taxa

Vague

Unknown variants

Contextual ambiguity

Inconsistently-used variants



Thank you for completing the pre-focus group questionnaire. I look forward to meeting you on the day.

If you have any questions prior to this, please contact me at:
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