

ASH TAXONOMIC COMMITTEE

Positive List

Procedures

(Not included in the ASH Position Statement – subject to modification by the Taxonomic Committee as circumstances arise)

Adopted 18-Feb-22, Amended 31-Mar-22

Establishment

1. An initial Positive List based on the Web of Science Core Collection (as of August 21, 2021) will be established. It will be split into two parts – highly relevant journals for Australian herpetological systematics, other journals.
2. An initial list of museums, many of which publish their own peer-reviewed journals not on the Web of Science Core Collection, will be established. Their scientific journals, not already identified under Item 1, will be added to the Positive List. The initial list of museums is based on the institutions holding the majority of the world's reptile type specimens (those that hold large numbers of primary types, as listed by Uetz et al. (2019; Zootaxa 4695(5), 438–450), together with institutional collections in Australia and New Zealand.
3. An initial list of additional journals (and those to be removed from the Positive List) will be made where these are not considered contentious (that is, where all drawing up the list agree).

Maintenance

4. Thereafter, the process for adding works to the Positive List will be by nomination,
 - A journal or other relevant scientific work will be nominated by a member of the Society, and seconded by two other members of the Society, any of whom may also be members of the ASH Taxonomic Committee.
 - The ASH Taxonomic Committee will consider the proposed addition (or removal) taking into account, but not restricted to, a commitment to independent peer review by experts (in the case of a journal), the scientific quality of the research and whether or not a decision will have an impact on the Official List. Some of these considerations require that the members of the ASH Taxonomic Committee exercise professional judgement.

It should be noted that the ASH Taxonomic Committee will not be making judgements on the quality of individual papers in journals on the Positive List, which may vary in quality. Once a journal is included in the Positive List, any work that appears in that journal will be considered to have contributed to the body of science, and any deficiencies perceived or otherwise, will be a subject for confirmation or refutation through the normal processes of scientific discourse.
 - The decision of the ASH Taxonomic Committee will be by a vote of members. Should the nominee or seconders be members of the Committee, they will have a vote. In the event of a tied vote (abstentions excluded), the Chair of the Committee will have a casting vote.
 - A member of the Society may appeal a decision of the ASH Taxonomic Committee within 6 weeks of notification of its determination, upon which the Committee will make a reassessment, however the decision is ultimately one for the ASH Taxonomic Committee.
5. The Society will, on behalf of the ASH Taxonomic Committee, keep a record of the outcomes of its deliberations, including all decisions to add publications (or remove publications) from the Positive List, the date of the meeting that the decision was made, the names of the nominator and seconders of the motion put, and the outcome of the vote (including abstentions).

Other Considerations

6. The Web of Science Core Collection and the list of museums is to provide a starting point. There is no intention or particular need to tie the ASH Positive List to these two databases. Changes to the Web of Science Core Collection or new journals from Museums will not automatically flow through to the Positive List. All subsequent additions will be by nomination. The ASH Taxonomic Committee retains full responsibility for any additions of scientific journals or scientific works to the Positive List of journals based on its own deliberations and professional judgement.

ASH Taxonomic Committee

31-Mar-2022