

Some important terms used in Taxonomy

Basionym is an earlier valid scientific name of a species that has since been renamed and from which the new name is partially derived. The author citation of the new name should include the authors of the basionym in parentheses.

When a current name has a basionym, the author or authors of the basionym are included in parentheses at the start of the author citation. If a basionym is later found to be illegitimate, it becomes a replaced synonym and the current name's author citation must be changed so that the basionym authors do not appear.

Combinatio nova

The basionym of the name *Picea abies* (the Norway spruce) is *Pinus abies*. The species was originally named *Pinus abies* by Carl Linnaeus and so the author citation of the basionym is simply "L." Later on, botanist Gustav Karl Wilhelm Hermann Karsten decided this species should not be grouped in the same genus (*Pinus*) as the pines, so he transferred it to the genus *Picea* (the spruces). The new name *Picea abies* is *combinatio nova*, a new combination (abbreviated *comb. nov.*). With author citation, the current name is "*Picea abies* (L.) Karst."

Status novus

Claude Weber did not consider the family name Malaceae to be taxonomically appropriate, so he created the name Maloideae at the rank of subfamily, referring to the original description of the family, and using the same type.^[6] This change of rank from family to subfamily is an example of *status novus* (abbreviated *stat. nov.*), also called a "name at new rank".

nomen novum (Latin for "new name"), **new replacement name** (or replacement name, new substitute name, substitute name^[1]) is a technical term. It indicates a scientific name that is created specifically to replace another scientific name, but only when this other name cannot be used for technical, nomenclatural reasons; It is frequently abbreviated, *e.g. nomen nov., nom. nov.*

Homonym is a name for a taxon that is identical in spelling to another such name, that belongs to a different taxon. The first such name to be published is the **senior homonym** and is to be used (it is "valid"); any others are **junior homonyms** and must be replaced with new names.

For example:

- Cuvier proposed the genus *Echidna* in 1797 for the spiny anteater.
- However, Forster had already published the name *Echidna* in 1777 for a genus of moray eels.
- Forster's use thus has priority, with Cuvier's being a junior homonym.

A **tautonym** is a scientific name of a species in which both parts of the name have the same spelling, for example *Rattus rattus*. A taxonomic binomial name in which the generic name and

specific epithet are alike and which is common and allowed in zoology but is forbidden to botany under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

Nomen nudum

The phrase *nomen nudum* is a Latin term, meaning "naked name", used in taxonomy. It may or may not be written in italics, depending on style. The term is used to indicate a designation which looks exactly like a scientific name of an organism, and may well have originally been intended to be a scientific name, but fails to be one because it has not been published with an adequate description, and thus is a "bare" or "naked" name, one which cannot be accepted as it currently stands. Because a *nomen nudum* fails to qualify as a formal scientific name, a later author can publish a real scientific name that is identical in spelling. If one and the same author puts a name in print, first as a *nomen nudum* and later on publishes it for real, accompanied by a description that does meet the formal requirements, then the date of publication of the latter, formally correct publication becomes the name's date of establishment.