

Checklist Committee

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Mission:

The Checklist Committee was established by the Board of Directors in 1980 to provide advice on Mammal Species of the World. The Checklist Committee is charged with compiling and updating the publication, Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference.

Information Items:

(1) The Checklist Committee was established by the Board of Directors in 1980 to provide advice on Mammal Species of the World. The Checklist Committee is charged with compiling and updating the publication, Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference. The first edition was edited by J. H. Honacki et al. (1982) and published by Allen Press and the Association for Systematics Collections. The first edition recognized 4170 species. Current authors for Mammal Species of the World (MSW) make up the checklist committee. MSW contains the names of all currently recognized species, nested in a taxonomic hierarchy that includes at a minimum Order, Family, and Genus.

(2) The second edition was edited by D. E. Wilson and D. M. Reeder (1993) and published by Smithsonian Institution Press. The second edition recognized 4629 species, including 172 species newly described since the first edition.

(3) The third edition, also edited by Wilson and Reeder, was published as a two-volume set by Johns Hopkins University Press in mid-December 2005. Since its publication in mid-December 2005, 2200+ copies have been sold. MSW3 includes common names, authorities for synonyms, and the recognition of subspecies. Other fields include type species for genera, type locality, distribution, and conservation status for species, and synonyms and comments fields for all taxa. MSW3 also contains an extensive bibliography (~ 9400 references) and an index of scientific names (~ 32,000 valid names and synonyms). MSW3 recognizes 5416 species and is currently available online at www.bucknell.edu/msw3. This fully searchable and downloadable database went online summer 2007, and receives approximately 11,000 hits daily. The Bucknell MSW3 database was replaced by a newer version at Smithsonian Institution in May 2011 – which is available at: <http://www.vertebrates.si.edu/msw/mswcfapp/msw>. Features of this site include: enhanced data exports that allow results to be formatted for xls spreadsheets and pdf, a dynamic taxonomy tree browser, advanced search features and species links to corresponding NMNH collection records. Given some glitches with the Smithsonian site, the Bucknell site still remains open.

(4) The checklist committee is currently working on MSW4, which we anticipate will be produced both in hard copy and as a searchable database.

Action items: None.

Respectfully submitted,
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