

Taxonomy problems?
We can help!

The Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group

For more information, contact Nancy Simmons (simmons@amnh.org)



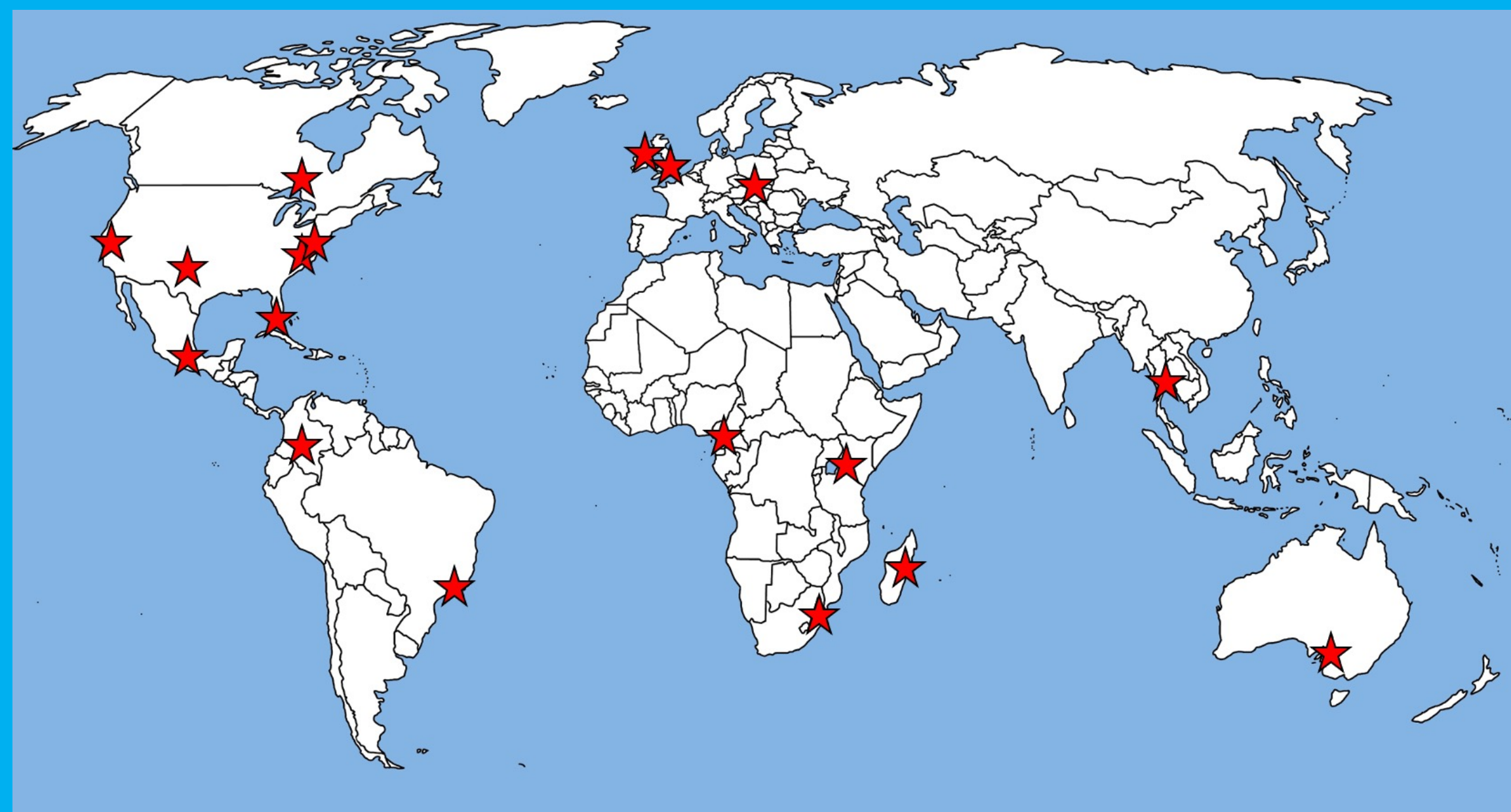
Who are we?

We are a committee of the IUCN Bat Specialist Group tasked with keeping up with changes to bat taxonomy, adjudicating taxonomic problems and disputes, and maintaining a comprehensive list of valid bat taxa and synonyms.

We maintain the *Batnames.org* database ("Bats of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Database") to deliver taxonomic information to the scientific community.



Membership & Meetings



The Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group currently consists of taxonomy experts and specialist users from 15 different countries.

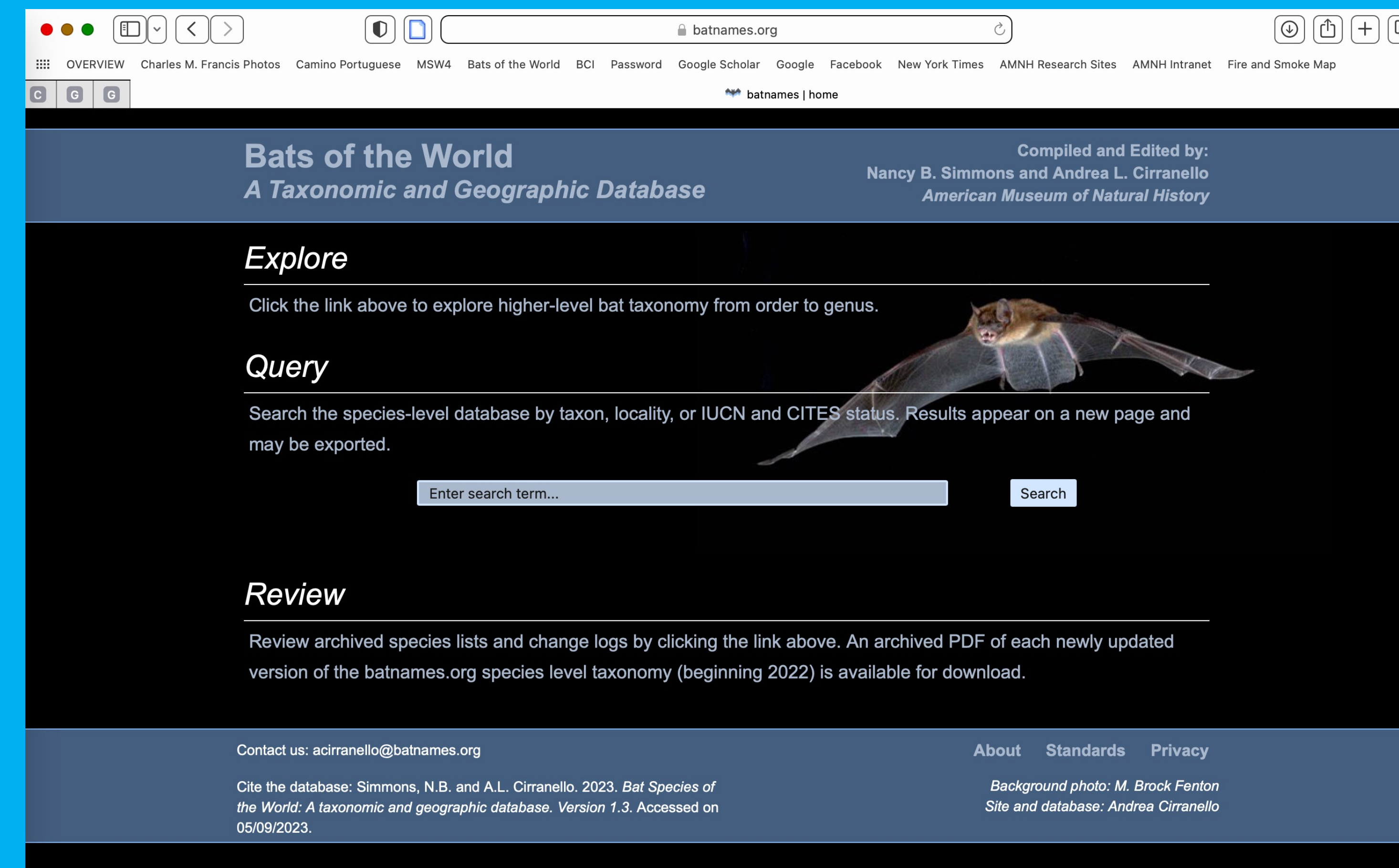
The Working Group has held occasional in-person meetings but works primarily via a Slack workspace.

For more information, visit our website at <https://www.iucnbsg.org/global-bat-taxonomy-working-group.html>

The Batnames Database

<https://batnames.org>

The Batnames database provides an up-to-date and authoritative species-level classification of bats that reflects the decisions of the Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group. It effectively replaces the Simmons (2005) classification.



The database can and should be cited in publications!

Mormoops megalophylla (Peters, 1864).
Monatsb. K. Preuss. Akad. Wiss. Berlin 1864: 381.
Peters's Ghost-faced Bat

Original name combination: *Mormoops megalophylla*.

Synonyms:

carteri Smith, 1972.

intermedia Miller, 1900.

megalophylla Peters, 1864; *rufescens* Davis & Carter, 1962; *senicula* Rehn, 1902.

tumidiceps Miller, 1902.



View large map with legend
Data sources: IUCN GBIF

Type locality: Mexico, Coahuila, Parras.

Distribution: S Texas, S Arizona (USA), and Baja California (Mexico) south to NW Peru and N Venezuela; Aruba, Curaçao, and Bonaire (Netherlands Antilles); Trinidad; Margarita Isl (Venezuela).

Status: CITES - Not listed. IUCN - Least Concern (2016).

Comments: See Rezsutek and Cameron (1993). Observed in Costa Rica; see York et al. 2020.

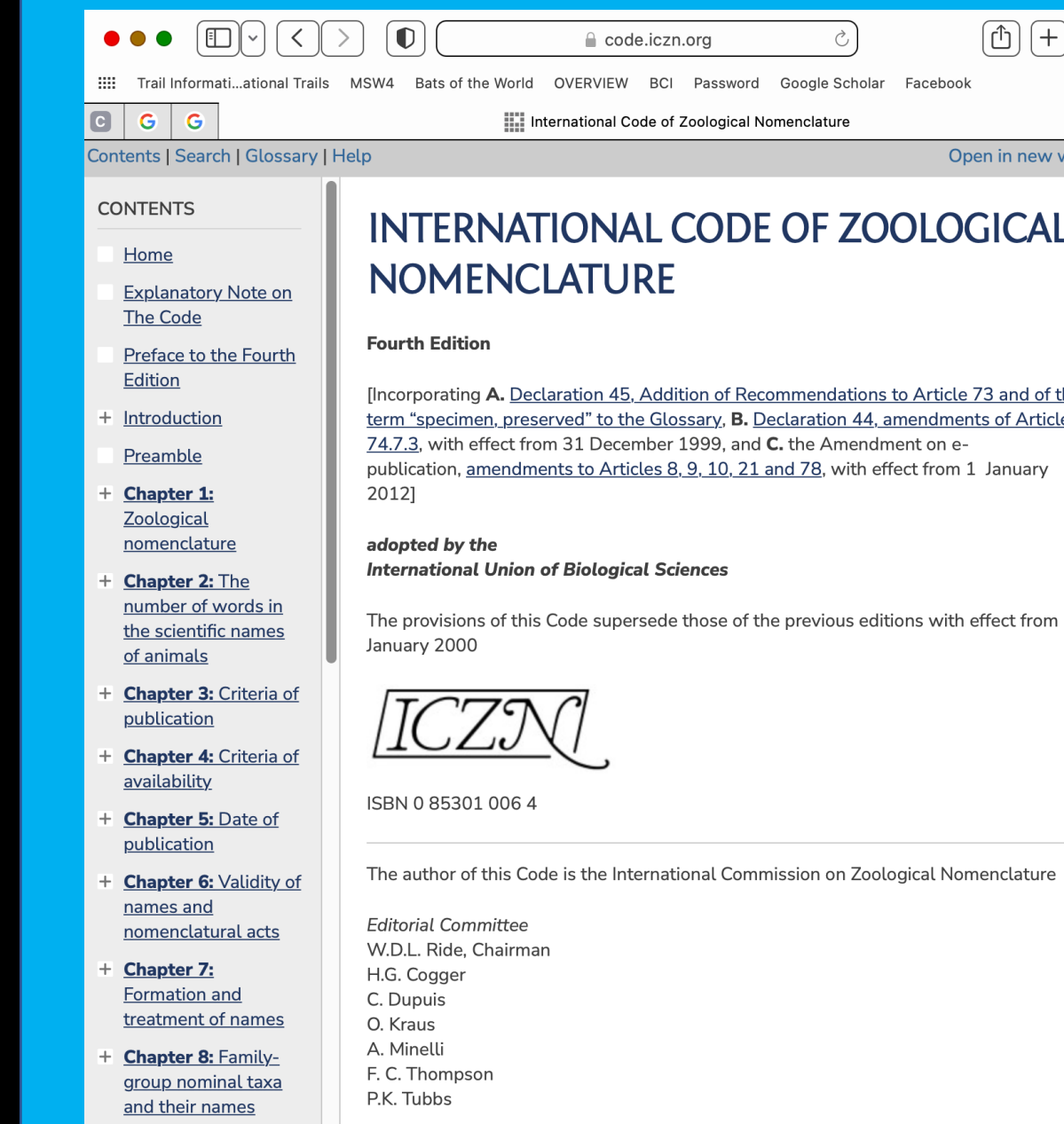
References:

Peters, H.W. 1864. Hr. W. Peters berichtete über einige neue Säugethiere (*Mormops*, *Macrotus*, *Hesperus*, *Molossus*, *Caproniys*), Amphibien (*Platydictillus*, *Otocryptis*, *Euprepes*, *Ungalia*, *Dromicus*, *Tropidonotus*, *Xenodon*, *Hylodes*) und Fische (*Silago*, *Webastes*, *Channa*, *Myctophum*, *Carassius*, *Barbus*, *Capoeta*, *Poecilia*, *Saurenhelys*, *Leptocephalus*). Monatsberichte der Königlich Preussische Akademie des Wissenschaften zu Berlin 1864: 381-399. Read article.

Rezsutek, M., and G.N. Cameron 1993. *Mormoops megalophylla*. *Mammalian Species* 448: 1-5. Read article.

Above is an example long entry for a species. Many records do not contain maps or publicly-available synonym lists yet, but these data are available upon request from Andrea Cirranello at acirranello@batnames.org.

Applying the rules of Zoological Nomenclature

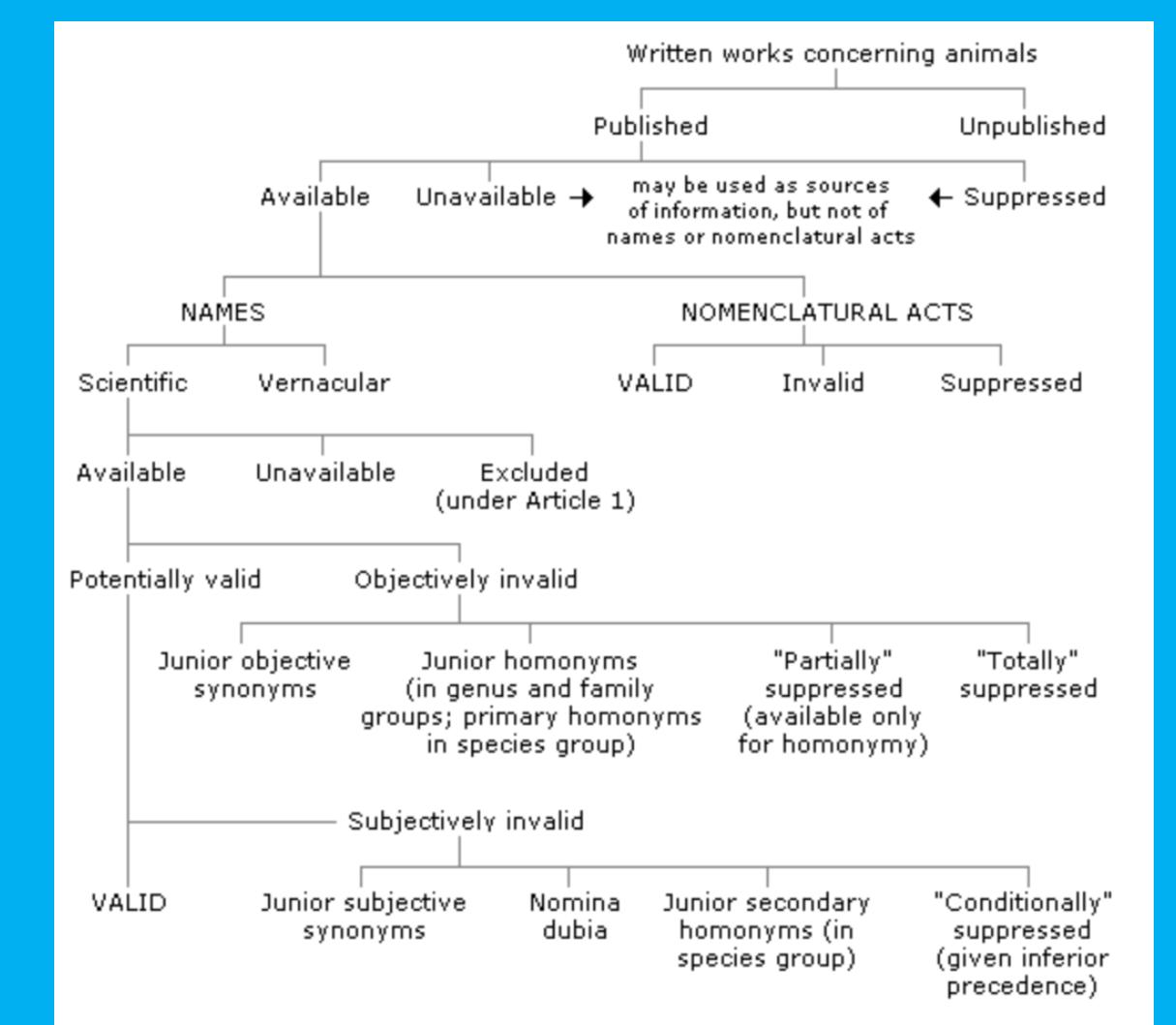


The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) is a widely accepted convention that governs the formal scientific naming of animals. Members of the Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group apply the ICZN rules to bat taxonomy.

Modern analytical methods, especially molecular data and statistical analyses, have resulted in many taxonomic problems in cases where bat species have been split and/or hybrid zones recognized.

We seek to:

- Track all scientific names ever applied to bats
- Determine which name(s) apply to each distinct species and subspecies
- Determine which is the valid name for each taxon (and which are junior synonyms)



How many bat species are there?

The number of valid species of bats recognized by the Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group as of May 2023 is

1462 species

Going forward, this number will be updated twice a year and available for citation on the Batnames database.