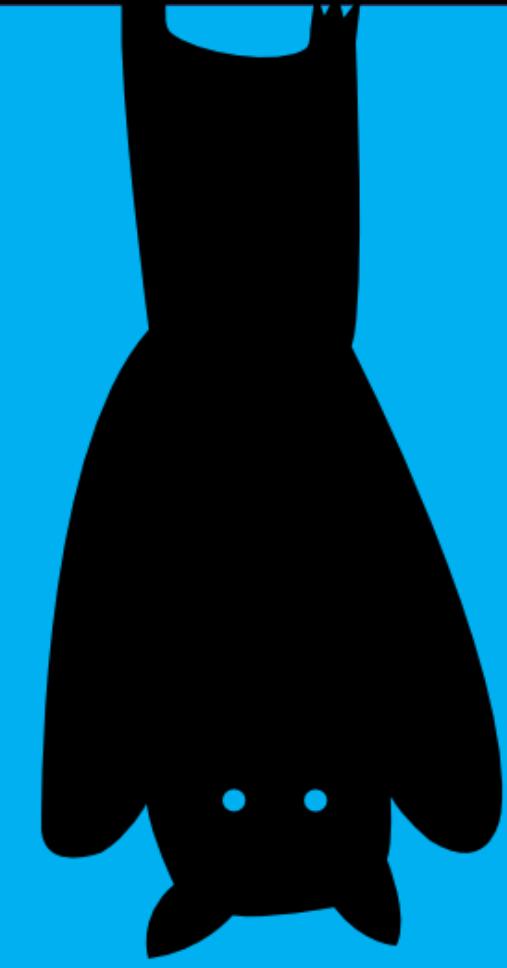


Taxonomy problems?
We can help!

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 10 different countries.

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

If you are a bat taxonomist interested in joining us, contact Chair Nancy Simmons (simmons@amnh.org)

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 screenshot shows the homepage of Batnames.org. At the top, it displays the title "Bats of the World A Taxonomic and Geographic Database" and credits "Compiled and Edited by: Nancy B. Simmons and Andrea L. Cirranello American Museum of Natural History". Below this, there are three main sections: "Explore" (with a link to "higher-level bat taxonomy from order to genus"), "Query" (with a search bar), and "Review" (with a link to "Review Change Logs and download Taxonomy Archives"). The footer includes contact information ("Contact us: acirranello@batnames.org"), links to "About", "Standards", and "Privacy", and copyright information ("Interactive web maps: Maria Brown Background photo: M. Brock Fenton Site and database: Andrea Cirranello").

The database can and should be cited in publications!

This screenshot shows a detailed species entry for *Mormoops megalophylla*. It includes the original name combination (*Mormops megalophylla*), synonyms (including *carteri*, *intermedia*, *megalophylla*, and *tumidiceps*), 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 (observed in Costa Rica; see York et al. 2020), references (Peters 1864, Rehn 1902, Davis & Carter 1962), and a note about a long article by Peters (1864). To the right is a map of the Americas showing the distribution range of the species.

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

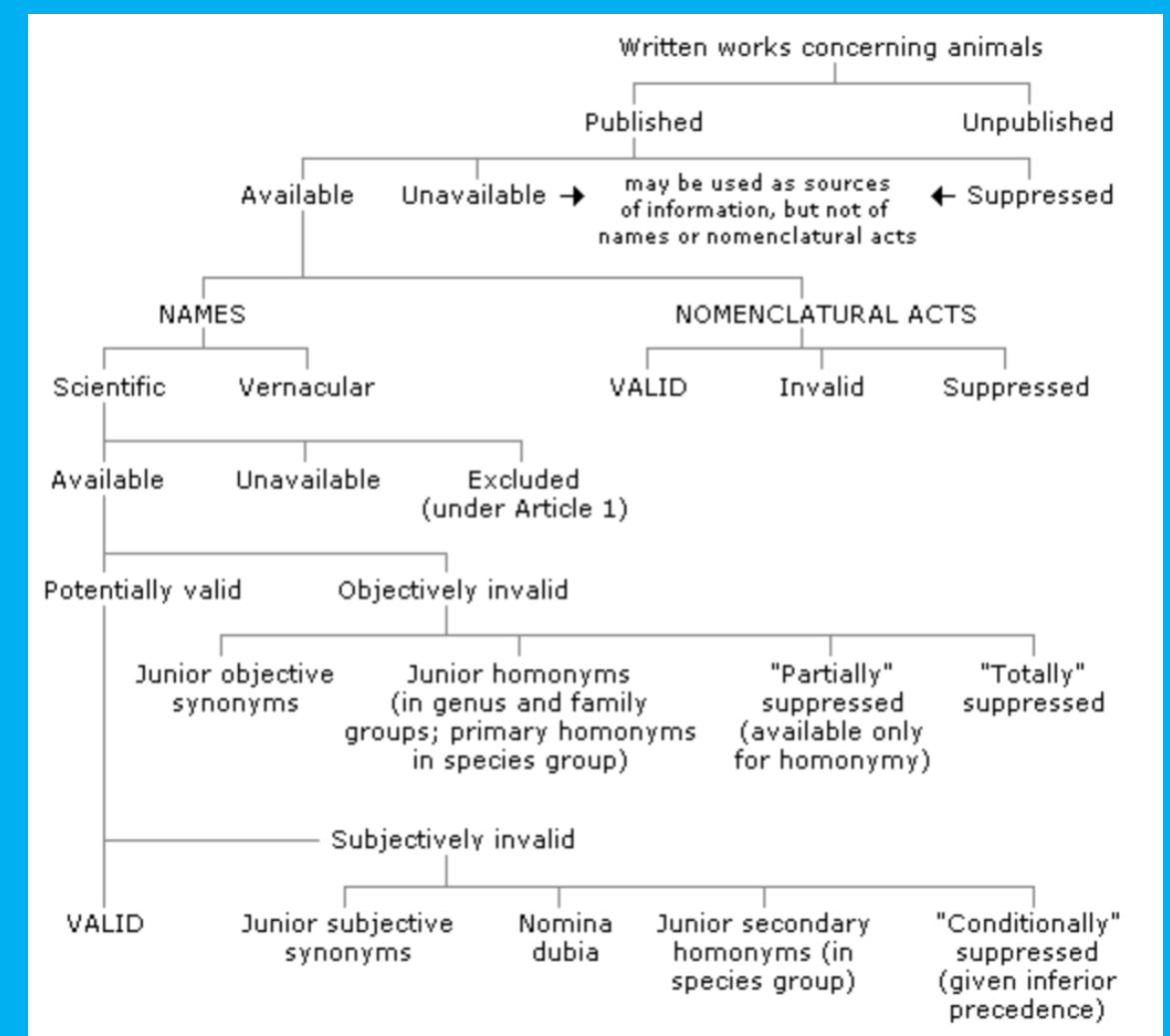
The screenshot shows the homepage of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. It features the title "INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE", the "Fourth Edition" (published in 2020), and the "Preface to the Fourth Edition". The page also includes the "CONTENTS" section, which lists various chapters such as "Introduction", "Preface to the Fourth Edition", "Chapter 1: Zoological nomenclature", "Chapter 2: The number of words in the scientific names of animals", "Chapter 3: Criteria of publication", "Chapter 4: Criteria of availability", "Chapter 5: Date of publication", "Chapter 6: Validity of names and nomenclatural acts", "Chapter 7: Formation and interpretation of names", and "Chapter 8: Evolutionary groups nominal taxa and their names".

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 July 2022 is

1456 species

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