GIRAFFA CAMELOPARDALIS RETICULATA DE WINTON, 1899: PROPOSED PRESERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS (MAMMALIA). Z.N.(S.) 1841

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There are several subspecies of the giraffe, Giraffa camelopardalis (Linnaeus 1758). One of them, Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata de Winton, 1899 (Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. ser. 7, 4 : 212), is very well-known and impressive. Unfortunately this commonly used name now proves to be a junior homonym of Camelopardalis giraffa var. reticulata Weinland, 1863 (Zool. Gart. 4 : 205). This name is not a nomen nudum as believed by Krumbiegi (Die Giraffe, 1939 : 40).

2. The homonymy has not yet been recognized. Both names refer to different taxa: (a) reticulata de Winton, 1899, has been based on specimens from regions east of the Loroghi Mountains (Kenya). (b) reticulata Weinland, 1863, has a more complex basis: one specimen (no locality) then living in the Frankfurt Zoological Garden, and further material collected by Rüppell at Baggara el Homr (Southern Kordofan); Mertens (Senckenb. biol. 49 : 86, 1968) fixed one of Rüppell's specimens (♂, SMF 498) as lectotype of reticulata Weinland. This specimen (SMF 498) at the same time is lectotype of Camelopardalis antiquorum Swainson, 1835 (designation by Schwarz 1920). Consequently reticulata Weinland, 1863, proves to be a junior objective synonym of antiquorum Swainson, 1835.

3. Under these circumstances it seems necessary to suppress the name reticulata Weinland, 1863 also for the law of Homonymy, in order to preserve the commonly used name reticulata de Winton, 1899. So the Commission is asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the subspecific name reticulata Weinland, 1863, as published in the combination Camelopardalis giraffa var. reticulata, both for the purposes of the Law of Priority and those of the Law of Homonymy;

(2) to place the subspecific name reticulata de Winton, 1899, as published in the combination Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

(3) to place the subspecific name reticulata Weinland, 1863, as published in the combination Camelopardalis giraffa var. reticulata on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.