

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 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 online version of the second edition, as well as more information about the project is available at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution at: www.nmnh.si.edu/msw. The second edition recognized 4629 species, including 172 species newly described since the first edition.

(3). The third edition (MSW3), also edited by Wilson and Reeder, is currently in press with Johns Hopkins University Press and will be available in the fall of 2005. For the first time, MSW will include 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, including 260 newly described species (between 1993 and the end of 2003). An online version, with periodical updates will be available at the end of 2005.

Action Items: None

Respectfully submitted,
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