

## A Note on the Nomenclature of *Iguana iguana* (Linnaeus, 1758)<sup>1</sup>

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The taxon currently known as *Iguana iguana* was first described by Linnaeus (1758:206) as “*Lacerta Igvana*”. The difference in the original spelling (i.e. “*igvana*”) versus the current spelling (i.e. “*iguana*”) of the species-group name is due to historical conventions in typography (see also Article 58 of the Code, ICZN 1999). Article 33.3.1 of the Code (ICZN 1999) can be applied and the current (and prevailing) spelling of “*iguana*” can and should be maintained.

Laurenti (1768:47) included ten nominal species in the new genus *Iguana*. One of these was *Iguana tuberculata* Laurenti, 1768. Burt and Burt (1933:26) validly designated *Iguana tuberculata* Laurenti, 1768, as the type species of the genus *Iguana* Laurenti, 1768. This is the earliest designation that has thus far been located. Information on any earlier designations would be welcomed.

All designations of *Lacerta iguana* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of *Iguana* Laurenti, 1768 (by tautonymy or otherwise) are not valid as *Lacerta iguana* Linnaeus, 1758, was not an originally included species (Article 67.2 of the Code, ICZN 1999).

As *Iguana tuberculata* Laurenti, 1768, is currently considered to be a synonym of *Lacerta iguana* Linnaeus, 1758, the valid name for the taxon is *Iguana iguana*.

The taxon name and its author and year of description should thus be written as *Iguana iguana* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Recommendation 22A.3 of the Code, ICZN 1999).

### Literature Cited

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