

SHORT NOTE

Emending the species name for Lopdells' penguin

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Marples (1952: 41) named a new species of fossil penguin from North Otago, New Zealand, as "*Archaeospheniscus lopdelli*" stating that the species name was "... after Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Lopdell who took part in the field work and discovered and developed several of the specimens" (Marples 1952: 42). The species is still considered valid, and authors since 1952 have continued to use Marples' original spelling of the scientific name for the species (e.g. Oliver 1955; Checklist Committee 1970, 1990, 2010; Fordyce 1991a, b; Jadwiszczak 2006a, b; Tambussi *et al.* 2006).

The authors of this note consider that nomenclatural stability is most important but are making a justified emendation of Marples' name because it is necessary under the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN 1999). Article 31.1.2 of the *Code* (ICZN 1999) states that:

"A species-group name, if a noun in the genitive case formed directly from a modern personal name, is to be formed by adding to the stem of that name *-i* if the personal name is that of a man, *-orum* if of men or of man (men) and woman (women) together, *-ae* if of a woman, and *-arum* if of women; the stem of such a name is determined by the

action of the original author when forming the genitive".

Article 33.2.1 of the *Code* (ICZN 1999) states that:

"A change in the original spelling of a name is only to be interpreted as "demonstrably intentional" when in the work itself... there is an explicit statement of intention...."

Hence, the specific epithet *lopdelli* is an incorrect original spelling because Marples (1952) intentionally and explicitly dedicated the species to a man and a woman together. As such, that epithet needs to be emended to *lopdellorum*. A similar example was discussed by Olson (1986) for another extinct New Zealand bird taxon, Hodgson's waterhen *Gallinula hodgsonorum* (Scarlett, 1955).

Therefore, the correct scientific name for the taxon is *Archaeospheniscus lopdellorum* Marples, 1952. Given this name change and the stated intent of the original author, the recommended common name is "Lopdells' penguin".

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Keywords *Archaeospheniscus*; nomenclature; New Zealand; fossil; incorrect original spelling; justified emendation