

Standard Aquatic Plant Names Protocols DRAFT



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The following draft standard name protocols are for consideration at the Aquatic Plant Names workshop on 6 September 2018. Once finalised, the protocols will be applied by the Aquatic Plant Names SRB when considering a proposed amendment to a standard name.

This set of protocols or assessment criteria is based on the Standard Fish Names Protocols, which were developed and agreed to by an eminent group of fish taxonomists, authors, and industry experts at a Common Names Workshop (21-22 September 2004).

They are to be used initially by the applicant and then applied by the Aquatic Plant Names SRB, particularly as part of the evaluation of all proposed amendments to the proposed Australian Aquatic Plant Names Standard.

Compliance with international obligations

The Australian Aquatic Plant Names Standard must comply with Australia's international obligations including World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (commonly referred to as the TBT Agreement) and particularly Annex 3, the World Trade Organisation Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards when developing standards, which requires that standards:

- accord products originating from other members of the WTO, no less favourable treatment than products of Australian origin
- ensure that unnecessary obstacles to international trade are not created
- where international standards exist or their completion is imminent, use the relevant parts of them as a basis for its work, except where they would be ineffective or inappropriate
- make every effort to achieve a national consensus.

Compliance with Federal and State laws

The Australian Aquatic Plant Names Standard must comply with relevant Australian and State Governments' laws including, but not restricted to:

- 1) Australian Government's legislative objectives for developing food standards including:
 - a) the protection of public health and safety
 - b) the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices
 - c) the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct.
- 2) Trade Practices Act, which:
 - a) prohibits anti-competitive practices
 - b) prohibits unconscionable conduct

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- c) requires compliance with applicable industry codes of conduct
- d) provides consumer protection (unfair practices, product safety and information, conditions and warranties, actions against manufacturers/importers, product liability).

Preferred names

Preference will be given to:

- 1) a name that has over-riding historical significance (e.g., names that have been widely used across Australia for more than a century (historical names), or nationally entrenched names, would generally have preference over recently derived, less well-used names).
- 2) A name that facilitates market acceptability;
- 3) a name that is internationally accepted
 - a) a regional name where the species is most commonly found would normally have priority over a less frequently used name, or names used where the species is less common.
 - b) a vernacular or common name in Australia (where one exists) retained in full or in part providing it complies with these guidelines.
- 4) a name that has demonstrated strong stakeholder support.
 - a) a name used in recent mainstream field guides and group treatments with regional relevance;
 - b) a name that most effectively distinguishes a species from its closest relatives (e.g., by reference to a diagnostic feature) is preferred over less obvious or irrelevant combinations.
- 5) A name that generally conforms to other members of the family or generic-level grouping;
- 6) A name that is simple, unambiguous, and easily readable.

One name per species

- 1) Each species may be assigned a single, standard aquatic plant name,
- 2) no two species may have the same approved standard name, and
- 3) in occasional rare cases, 'product' or 'plant part' names will be assigned where different parts of a particular species are marketed separately as significantly different entities.

Group names

A group standard aquatic plant name:

- 1) may cover multiple species in a particular scientific family or group of aquatic plants, and
- 2) may not be the same as a species' standard aquatic plant name, and
- 3) may be used in the singular or plural if followed by (s);
- 4) will follow internationally accepted names) unless alternatives are well entrenched in Australian mainstream literature.

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Subspecies and hybrids

Subspecies and hybrids will not generally be given a standard aquatic plant name.

Structure of names

Simplicity of names and name structure is fundamental to the naming process.

- 1) Avoid using:
 - a) long-winded names.
 - b) unnecessary suffixes and hyphens.
 - c) ambiguous names, for example, where names combine well (elements are easily determined and unambiguous), use one word;
 - d) long names with multiple descriptors;
 - e) repetitive frequently used descriptors (e.g., 'Spotted', 'Banded', 'Striped', 'Australian', 'Deepwater'), unless no other distinctive attribute exists.
 - f) patronyms or names intended to honour persons (apart from those that are historically entrenched) are discouraged; however
 - i such names may be used when no user-friendly, diagnostic descriptors are available, and
 - ii when used, these names should include an apostrophe, and
 - iii names derived from ships should not be represented in the possessive case
 - g) the expression 'Common', or emotive terms such as 'Dangerous', as part of an aquatic plant's name.
 - h) descriptors of size (e.g., 'Little', 'Large'), unless strongly diagnostic of the species or group in question.
 - i) names that are also widely used for other organisms unless pre- or suffixed to make them distinct.
- 2) Use:
 - a) hyphens where combinations involve vowel or letter pairing;
 - b) separate names to maintain 'readability' if the word elements are unclear;
 - c) the correct form of the descriptor, for example:
 - i 'Orangespot' refers to a species with a single orange spot or bilateral pair of spots;
 - ii 'Orangespotted' refers to a species with multiple orange spots;
 - d) 'Orange Spotted' is non-specific (e.g., 'Orange Spotted Catshark????????') refers
Construct descriptors based on:-
 - i structural attributes, coloration, and colour pattern;
 - ii suitable adjectival modifiers reflecting the geographic distribution of the species;
 - iii ecological or biological characteristics of the species;

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- iv colourful, romantic, fanciful, metaphorical, otherwise distinctive and original names.
- v well-accepted aboriginal names.

Scientific names

- 1) A standard aquatic plant name is not intimately tied to scientific name changes (i.e., if the scientific name of a particular species changes, the standard aquatic plant name should remain unaffected unless there is a good reason for change).
- 2) Generic or family names (i.e. scientific names) may be used as standard aquatic plant names

Other grammatical rules and exceptions

Standard aquatic plant names should adhere to the following rules:

- 1) Use **capital letters** at the start of each word except directly following a hyphen (exceptions to this are where the hyphenated word/s are proper nouns;
- 2) **Abbreviated forms** of words and combined words are preferred except where there is some advantage in retaining the unabbreviated form in keeping the words separate, for example use 'and' rather than '&'; use 'zigzag' rather than 'zig-zag';
- 3) **Words that end in 'ate'**. Most words that end in 'ate' are adjectives, so a 'd' is not required at the end of the word (e.g., 'Reticulate' rather than 'Reticulated') . For verbs, such as 'inflate', a 'd' is required at the end of the word. For example:
 - a) 'Annulate' (adjective)
 - b) 'Decorated' (verb)
 - c) 'Delicate' (adjective)
 - d) 'Elongate' (verb/adjective)
 - e) 'Fimbriate' (adjective)
 - f) 'Frigate' (noun)
 - g) 'Immaculate' (adjective)
 - h) 'Inflated' (verb)
 - i) 'Lanceolate' (adjective)
 - j) 'Ocellate' (adjective)
 - k) 'Ornate' (adjective)
 - l) 'Reticulate' (adjective)
 - m) 'Striate' (verb/adjective)
 - n) 'Variegated' (verb)
 - o) 'Vermiculate' (verb/adjective)
- 4) Combine words that:
 - a) precede 'band' and 'banded' except for unwieldy combinations;

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- b) precede 'bar' and 'barred' except for unwieldy combinations;
 - c) precede 'blotched' are combined;
 - d) follow 'Double' except when followed by an 'e' or based on readability;
 - e) follow 'False' or separate them based on readability
 - f) follow 'Half'
 - g) precede 'line' and 'lined' except in a few cases based on readability;
 - h) precede 'speckled';
 - i) precede 'spine'
 - j) precede 'spotted' except for longer words that end in 'y', which are unwieldy if combined
 - k) precede 'streak' and 'streaked'
- 5) **'Margin'** (a noun) is used if the type or colour of the margin is defined; 'Margined' (an adjective) is used if it stands alone;
 - 6) **Multi** is usually combined except for unwieldy cases
 - 7) **'Shorthead'** is one word
 - 8) **'Spangled'** not 'spangle'

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