

## The correct authorship of the taxon name ‘Arthropoda’

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### Abstract

The taxon Arthropoda has been repeatedly cited with various incorrect authorship data. Here, we review the primary literature and show the correct citation to be ‘Arthropoda VON SIEBOLD, 1848’.

### Key words

Arthropoda, Condylipoda, taxonomy, Latreille, von Siebold.

## 1. Introduction

Arthropoda is the largest animal phylum, but a quick survey of the literature reveals a considerable amount of confusion regarding the correct author responsible for the origin of the name. In addition to published articles, several prominent websites, like Wikipedia, cite the author and date of ‘Arthropoda’ erroneously. Six different author & date combinations have been used in recent years (with the bold entry being the correct one as advocated herein):

Arthropoda LATREILLE, 1829 – (DOMÍNGUEZ CAMACHO & VANDEN-  
SPIEGEL 2012; LAMSDALL et al. 2013; TATARNIC & CASSIS 2013;  
Wikipedia)

Arthropoda VON SIEBOLD & STANNIUS, 1845 – (BETTS et al. in press;  
EDGECOMBE et al. 2011; FU & ZHANG 2011; GARCÍA-BELLIDO et  
al. 2009a,b; HAUG et al. 2010; PENG et al. 2010; TOPPER et al.

2001; WANG et al. 2012; YANG et al. 2008; <http://www.peripatus.gen.nz>)

Arthropoda VON SIEBOLD & STANNIUS, 1848 – (BUDD 2011; KÜHL &  
RUST 2012; [www.palaeos.com](http://www.palaeos.com))

Arthropoda VON SIEBOLD & STANNIUS, 1854 – (LAGEBRO et al. 2009)

Arthropoda VON SIEBOLD, 1845 – (ŠTYS & ZRZAVY 1994; Fauna  
Iberica website)

**Arthropoda VON SIEBOLD, 1848** – (HEGNA et al. in press; LEGG  
2013; LEGG & VANNIER 2013; LEROSEY-AUBRIL et al. in press;  
RAK et al. 2013; VAN ROY 2006; VAN ROY & TETLIE 2006;  
ZHANG 2011)

The confusion over the correct author & date of ‘Arthropoda’ has deep roots, with the author and date being mis-cited, e.g., in the arthropod volume of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* (STÖRMER 1959) and in the ar-

thropod volume of the *Traité de Zoologie* (GRASSÉ 1968). The ICZN does not govern higher taxonomic categories, so our criteria for identifying the correct author & date are simply the first usage of the word ‘Arthropoda’. The purpose of this contribution is not to trace down the origin of all the variant citations, nor to advocate a particular concept or definition of Arthropoda, but instead to point out the correct author & date combination and the supporting reasons.

## LATREILLE

LATREILLE’s work mainly focuses on the group of animals that we know today as arthropods. He realized that LINNAEUS’s definition of Insecta (which included some non-insect arthropods) was parting ways with the general usage of the word ‘insect’ (LATREILLE 1802b). He essentially advocated a restricted usage of ‘Insecta’ (roughly corresponding to the modern Tracheata concept, see BÄCKER et al. 2008), but still recognized the basic underlying similarity between the major arthropod groups: insects, crustaceans and arachnids. The organization of his written works further supports this idea. LATREILLE mainly referred to the group, later designated ‘Arthropoda’, in an informal manner: “Des animaux invertébrés, pourvus de pattes, désignés, dans le sens le plus étendu, sous le nom d’insectes” [Invertebrate animals, provided with legs, referred to, in the widest sense, under the name of insects] (LATREILLE 1802a: p. 339), “Ainsi les animaux évertébrés et pédigères se divisent en trois classes: crustacés, arachnides et insectes” [Invertebrate and legged animals can be divided into three classes: crustaceans, arachnids, and insects] (LATREILLE 1810: p. 32), “Animaux articulés et pourvus des pieds articulés ou des crustacés, des arachnides, et des insectes” [Articulated animals provided with jointed legs, or crustaceans, arachnides and insects] (LATREILLE 1829: p. 1).

In the third volume of *Histoire Naturelle, Générale et Particulière des Crustacés et des Insectes*, LATREILLE (1802b: p. vii, footnote 1) coins the term ‘Condylipodes’ (Condylipoda; condylopes spelling used in LATREILLE 1825), which according to him includes:

“Comme on a restreint depuis l’étendue de ce mot, je nomme *condylipodes* les animaux que LINNAEUS appelle insectes, et qui forment, dans la méthode du professeur LAMARCK, trois classes: les crustacés, les arachnides et les insectes” [As the extent of the word has been restricted since, I call *condylipodes* the animals that Linnaeus called insects, which form, in the method of professor Lamarck, three classes: crustaceans, arachnids and insects].

As recognized by DUPUIS (1974), ‘Condylipoda’ is essentially synonymous with the modern usage of ‘Arthropoda’ (excluding Cirripedia, see LATREILLE 1825) – a senior subjective synonym of ‘Arthropoda’. The term

‘Condylipoda’ was not widely used by LATREILLE (but see LATREILLE 1802b,c, 1829, 1831 for further usage of ‘Condylipoda’), and was apparently not widely adopted outside of his works. Though LATREILLE’s term is older than ‘Arthropoda’, as it has not been used in over one hundred years, we recommend that it be abandoned, in favor of its much more widely used junior subjective synonym (viz. ‘Arthropoda’). As an aside, the same is true for another term LATREILLE coined to refer to the group of arthropods excluding insects, ‘Apiropodes’ (LATREILLE 1831; similar in content to ‘Schizoramia’ BERGSTRÖM, 1976). Nowhere in his work does LATREILLE use the word ‘Arthropoda’ or ‘arthropodes’. Thus, LATREILLE created a taxon (with an apomorphy-based definition) that largely includes the major currently accepted constituents of the clade Arthropoda, but he did not personally coin the term ‘Arthropoda’.

## VON SIEBOLD & STANNIUS

Karl Theodor Ernst VON SIEBOLD and Hermann STANNIUS were the editors of a two-volume set of textbooks on comparative anatomy published in German, entitled *Lehrbuch der vergleichenden Anatomie*. Though each volume was edited by VON SIEBOLD & STANNIUS, they were not necessarily authored by both men. The second volume (‘Zweiter Theil’) was actually the first to be published, in 1846, and was authored by STANNIUS alone; as this volume is dedicated to vertebrate anatomy, in it, no mention is made of ‘Arthropoda’. It is in the ‘Erster Theil’, which deals with invertebrates, that the term ‘Arthropoda’ is first used (VON SIEBOLD 1848: p. 4). As indicated on both the title page and at the end of the foreword (‘Vorrede’, p. VIII), this ‘first volume’ was published after the so-called ‘second’, in 1848, and was composed by VON SIEBOLD alone. In it, the following original definition of Arthropoda is provided:

“Thiere mit vollkommen symmetrischer Form und gegliederten Bewegungsorganen. Centralmasse des Nervensystems besteht aus einem den Schlund umfassenden Ganglienring und einer von diesem ausgehenden Bauch-Ganglienkette” [Animals having a perfectly symmetrical form, and articulated organs of locomotion. The central masses of the nervous system consist of a ring of ganglia surrounding the oesophagus, from which proceeds a chain of abdominal ganglia.] (translation from BURNETT 1854: p. 16)

This definition is given immediately under the two headings ‘Fünfte Hauptgruppe’ and ‘Arthropoda’, and is immediately followed by a list indicating Crustacea (including Cirripedia), Arachnida, and Insecta as the components of this group. By this, the content of ‘Arthropoda’ in VON SIEBOLD (1848) is clearly delimited. In addition, VON SIEBOLD (1848) does not refer to any previ-

ous author or publication with regard to his term ‘Arthropoda’.

Thus, the correct author & date combination for ‘Arthropoda’ is ‘VON SIEBOLD, 1848’. Confusion about the correct authorship for the name Arthropoda has either included both editors as authors of the taxon, the earliest date of publication for the series, the 1854 date of the translation of the original German publication into English by BURNETT, or some combination of these various options. The continued confusion regarding the correct authorship of ‘Arthropoda’ is regrettable, given that in an era when ancient classic monographs are becoming increasingly available to a wider audience in digital format, it ought to be easier for individual authors to provide accurate citations.

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