



Letters

MARINE MAMMAL SCIENCE, 31(2): 837–838 (April 2015)

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DOI: 10.1111/mms.12219

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE

A reply to “Comments on *Sousa* nomenclature:
A response to Jefferson and Rosenbaum”

Kinze (2015) has provided a series of comments on our recently published paper on the taxonomic revision of the humpback dolphins, *Sousa* spp. (Jefferson and Rosenbaum 2014). The comments of Kinze provide additional factual details on some of the relevant nomenclatural history. Most of these details, while useful and historically interesting, do not contradict or conflict with any statements or conclusions of our paper. However, Kinze does list five points that would seem to do so, and we will respond to each of these in turn below:

1. *Incorrect statement that Kükenthal (1892) did not provide a figure*—Kinze correctly points out that we made an error in stating that Kükenthal’s type description of *S. teuszii* did not contain a figure of the type. Unfortunately, our copy of Kükenthal (1892) did not include the relevant plate (which is far removed from the text in the original volume), but we now see that Kükenthal did indeed contain a photo, and we acknowledge our error.
2. *Citation of Linnæus (1758) for no type specimen of *Sousa chinensis**—This was simply a poor use and placement of the Linnæus (1758) citation on our part. We are well aware that Linnæus did not state that there was no type specimen for *S. chinensis*. We acknowledge Kinze’s clarification of our misleading statement.
3. *Statement that Flower’s (1870) specimen was a holotype*—We fully agree with Kinze’s assessment that Flower’s specimen never had (nor was intended to have) the status of a holotype. In fact, we never stated that it did, and actually pointed out in our paper several times that it was not, though over the years it indeed had been viewed as something of a “surrogate” for an actual type specimen by many authors.
4. *Status of Porter’s (2002) neotype designation*—We agree with Kinze’s assessment that no neotype specimen is needed for *S. chinensis*. Having been involved in the necropsy of the Porter specimen, we are aware of many serious errors in the details and measurements about this specimen presented by Porter (2002). In light of the absence of a neotype need, and the many factual errors provided by Porter, we must disagree with Kinze, and strongly suggest that Porter’s neotype not be used in any taxonomic or nomenclatural capacity.
5. *The nomenclatural status of *Delphinus malayanus* (Lesson, 1828 [= Lesson, 1826 in Lesson and Garnot 1826])*—We agree with Kinze that this putative species is better considered a *nomen dubium*, rather than a *nomen nudum*.

We sincerely thank Kinze (2015) for pointing out these several corrections in our paper (Jefferson and Rosenbaum 2014), and adding some historical details, though we would like to take this opportunity to clarify that none of these in any way changes the validity of the conclusions of our paper.

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