

Editor's communication / Comunicazione editoriale

This editorial communication is intended to clarify the content of volume 2 of the journal and the reasons that led to its publication in a particular way.

The National Research Council, ISSN National Center, is the official Italian body in charge of issuing the ISSN codes; any new Italian magazine must imperatively adhere to its regulations.

In the case of new journals published only electronically (without a paper support), this regulation imposes, among other obligations, that the publisher publishes, in an official and definitive way, not in pre-publication mode, the first issue of the journal. Only then the procedure is activated that leads to the assignment of the ISSN code.

Conversely, the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi considers an electronic publication to be effectively published only if it already has the ISSN code at the time of publication (Article 29 of the Nomenclature Code).

The evident irreconcilable contrast between the two regulations has caused the consequence that the names of new taxa published in volume 1 are considered invalid by the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi (communication received on February 5, 2022).

In response to the communication, dated February 8, 2022, in which we explained the above (see **attachment no. 1** below), the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi replied that, while acknowledging that it had created, albeit unconsciously, with article 29, a regulation that generates discriminations in particular cases such as ours ("*sometimes there are particular situations that do not happen very often and we can't always foresee these*"), and admitting that it could be its next task to correct such disciplinary distortions ("*For future editions of the Code, we could add a note to be aware that an ISSN may not be issued for the first issue of a publication*"), cannot intervene to remedy the situation of the present case ("*For now, I cannot see any way around the need to republish the names in some fashion*") (see **attachment no. 2** below).

Volume 2 is therefore published only for service purposes to republish the new names published in volume 1, faithfully reproducing them as they were in volume 1, and without containing any unpublished article.

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La presente comunicazione editoriale ha lo scopo di chiarire il contenuto del volume 2 della rivista e i motivi che hanno indotto alla sua pubblicazione in maniera particolare.

Il Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Centro nazionale ISSN, è l'organismo italiano ufficiale addetto al rilascio dei codici ISSN; ai suoi regolamenti qualunque nuova rivista italiana deve inderogabilmente aderire.

Nel caso di nuove riviste pubblicate solo in modalità elettronica (senza supporto cartaceo), questo regolamento impone, tra gli altri obblighi, che l'editore pubblichi, in modo ufficiale e definitivo, non in modalità pre-pubblicazione, il primo numero della rivista. Solo successivamente viene attivata la procedura che porta all'assegnazione del codice ISSN.

Viceversa il Comitato di Nomenclatura dei funghi (Nomenclature Committee for Fungi) considera una pubblicazione elettronica effettivamente pubblicata solo se già in possesso del codice ISSN al momento della pubblicazione (articolo 29 del Codice di nomenclatura).

L'evidente inconciliabile contrasto tra i due regolamenti ha causato la conseguenza che i nuovi nomi di taxa pubblicati nel volume 1 sono considerati invalidi dal Comitato di Nomenclatura dei funghi (comunicazione ricevuta in data 5 febbraio 2022).

A fronte della comunicazione, in data 8 febbraio 2022, in cui abbiamo spiegato quanto sopra (vedi **allegato nr. 1** in basso), il Comitato di Nomenclatura dei funghi ha risposto che, pur riconoscendo di avere creato, seppure inconsciamente, con l'articolo 29, un regolamento che genera discriminazioni in casi particolari come il nostro ("*sometimes there are particular situations that do not happen very often and we can't always foresee these*"), e ammettendo che potrà essere un suo prossimo compito correggere tali distorsioni disciplinarie ("*For future editions of the Code, we could add a note to be aware that an ISSN may not be issued for the first issue of a publication*"), non può intervenire a risanare la situazione del caso presente ("*For now, I cannot see any way around the need to republish the names in some fashion*") (vedi **allegato nr. 2** in basso).

Il presente volume 2 pertanto è pubblicato solo a fini di servizio per ripubblicare i nuovi nomi pubblicati nel volume 1, riportandoli fedelmente così come erano nel volume 1, e senza contenere alcun articolo inedito.

Nr. 1 (to/a Tom May, Secretary, Nomenclature Committee for Fungi):

Dear Tom May,

It is good to know that the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi watches over the correctness of nomenclatural operations.

Mycological Observations is a new Italian online only mycological journal and, as such, it had to abide by the rules imposed by the Italian body in charge of issuing the codes (* see below).

This body imposes (at least it did so in November 2021, for what we know, when the journal was ready to publish its first volume) that a new Italian online only journal must firstly do two things:

- a) pay an una-tantum tax;
- b) OFFICIALLY PUBLISH ITS FIRST ISSUE.

Then, and rigorously only then, this body activates its procedure for recognizing the new journal and releasing the ISSN code which, in the case of *Mycological Observations*, is

ISSN 2785-4124.

So, unless the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi is positively wishing to impose upon new Italian online only journals the prohibition to publish new names of taxa in their first issue, we humbly suggest the said Committee should consider the situation in the light of this state of affairs (at least in Italy as far as we know).

Looking forward to receiving your next communications,

Regards,

Editor of *Mycological Observations*

* Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Centro nazionale ISSN

Piazzale Aldo Moro 7 00185 Roma

FAX 0649932086

<http://bice.cnr.it/centro-italiano-issn>

Nr. 2 (from/da Tom May, Secretary, Nomenclature Committee for Fungi):

Dear Editor of *Mycological Observations*

Thank you for getting back with this information.

I think that requiring the first volume or part to be published before issuing an ISSN is the way ISSN works generally, although "Pre-publication" ISSN assignments are made under limited conditions. Apologies that I did not think that through when suggesting to re-issue volume 1 with an ISSN. In fact, you need to republish the relevant names in a later issue that does include an ISSN.

Unfortunately, the way that the *Code* is currently worded means that the names are not effectively published without an ISSN.

It was not the intention when the rules around ISSN were added to the Code to create un-necessary difficulties. The aim of the Code is generally to make things simpler rather than harder. For the NCF also, we generally try to work out solutions, rather than just point out that names are invalid for the sake of it. However, sometimes there are particular situations that do not happen very often and we can't always foresee these. For future editions of the Code, we could add a note to be aware that an ISSN may not be issued for the first issue of a publication. For now, I cannot see any way around the need to republish the names in some fashion.

Regards

Tom