

The case of the abducted *The Nautilus* papers

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The purpose of this note is to make known the existence on the Internet, for over a year, of two papers on which authorship had been changed from previously published originals. Although now removed from the Internet, these were downloadable .pdf files and may have been downloaded and/or printed from those .pdf files.

In 2005, Petit was asked for assistance in identifying some deep-water Cancellariidae by Lima, then a Brazilian malacology student. As a result, two papers based on that material were published in *The Nautilus* in 2007. One of them was coauthored by Lima's professor, José Carlos Nascimento de Barros (hereafter Barros) and Petit. On the other paper, Lima was the first author with Barros and Petit.

For the 2010 *Semana Nacional de Ciência e Tecnologia* (2010 National Week of Science and Technology) a program with abstracts, but also including complete papers, was placed onto the Internet. Articles in .pdf format had the heading *X Jornada de Ensino, Pesquisa e Extensão – JEPEX 2010 – UFRPE: Recife, 18 a 22 de outubro* (X Meeting of Teaching, Research and Continuing Education).

The second of the two papers mentioned above, authored by Lima, Barros, and Petit, was copied in .pdf format in those online *Jornada* abstracts, with no mention of *The Nautilus* or original authorship. Seven authors are listed: Guilherme Lima Moraes, José Carlos Nascimento de Barros, Jonata de Arruda Francisco, Silvio Felipe Barbosa de Lima, Severino Adriano de Oliveira Lima, Paulo Henrique Gomes da Paixão, and Nefi Medeiros Fernandes. Institutional affiliation was denoted by superscript numbers corresponding to addresses at the bottom of the page. By the time this appeared, Lima was no longer a student in Recife, but at a different university in Paraíba. It must be mentioned that Lima was unaware that this paper had been changed and posted online until this was called to his attention in July 2011. Barros is listed as second author and the other five persons listed are believed to be his students, as was Lima before he moved.

That *The Nautilus* paper is not copied in its entirety, but what is copied is almost verbatim. Copied are the Introduction, Systematics, and Discussion. The Description is only about half copied. Type Material, Type Locality, Geo-

graphical Distribution, Etymology, Remarks, and Material Examined are not included. However, all data concerning the holotype is given in the figure caption. The figure and its caption are copied without change. References cited are deleted in the text, with numbers substituted that correspond to numbered References at the end.

The first paper mentioned above, by Barros and Petit, was copied in a similar manner. Figures 9–11 were not reproduced as they are of a different species. Authors shown on this copy were: Néfi de Medeiros Fernandes, Guilherme Lima Moraes, Jonata de Arruda Francisco, and José Carlos Nascimento de Barros.

When this matter came to our attention in June 2011, Lima was contacted by Petit. He knew nothing of the matter but promised to investigate although he was no longer in Recife.

In early December 2011, it was noted that these papers were still on the Internet. Once again Lima was contacted. Petit asked Lima to advise Barros and the people in charge of keeping these articles on the Internet of possible consequences if they were not removed immediately. As even that had no effect, the situation was explained in rather stronger terms, which Lima passed on and the papers were then taken off the Internet sometime between 21 December and 27 December 2011.

One of the problems with these copied papers is the matter of them having wrong authorship. A more serious problem is that any hard copies printed from these .pdf files would appear to be Code-compliant original papers. All features needed for validation of the names were copied.

Although these two transformed papers are not published under the provisions of the Code, there is nothing in their appearance to indicate that they were not issued in print. Such listings on the Internet can lead to the misattribution of authorship and incorrect dating of nomina when picked up by sources scavenging the Internet for data used in compilation of lists and data bases. There are now companies publishing entire "books" consisting entirely of material uncritically taken from the Internet (Petit, in preparation).

The PDF papers that are the subject of this article are not listed in the Literature Cited as to do so would give them an undeserved legitimacy.

LITERATURE CITED

- Barros, J. C. N. de and R. E. Petit. 2007. A new species of *Microcancilla* (Gastropoda: Cancellariidae) from the continental slope off northeastern Brazil. *The Nautilus* 121: 95–98.
- Lima, S. F. B. de, J. C. N. de Barros and R. E. Petit. 2007. A new species of *Gardiella* (Gastropoda: Cancellariidae) from the South Atlantic Ocean off Brazil with discussion of an undescribed species. *The Nautilus* 121: 99–103.
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