

CORRIGENDUM

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Definitive fossil evidence for the extant avian radiation in the Cretaceous

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We wish to correct an oversight noted¹ in one line of our systematic paleontology section, altering this line from “*Vegavis iaaï*, new taxon” to “*Vegavis iaaï*, new taxa” to indicate our intent to name two taxa: one that under the current International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN)² is to be at the rank of a genus (that is, *Vegavis*), and the second that is to be at the rank of species (that is, *iaaï*). Article 13.4 of this Code² specifies that the “combined description or definition of a new nominal genus or subgenus and a single included new nominal species, if marked by “gen. nov., sp. nov.” or an equivalent expression, is deemed to confer availability on each name under Article 13.1.1”. This line might also have been written “*Vegavis iaaï*, gen. nov., sp. nov.” Without this emendation, only the species name may be available under the ICZN¹.

A formal international code of phylogenetic nomenclature that does not require linnaean ranks is under development³. Even when this is implemented, however, species names should be defined so that they are valid and available under both codes.

1. Polaszek, A., Grubb, P., Groves, C., Ehardt, C. L. & Butynski, T. M. What constitutes a proper description? *Science* **309**, 2165–2166 (2005).
2. International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* 4th edn, 18 (International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, 1999).
3. Cantino, P. D. & de Queiroz, K. *Phylocode: a Phylogenetic Code of Biological Nomenclature* Version 3a (www.ohiou.edu/phylocode/) (Ohio University, Athens, USA, 2006).