

BRIEF COMMUNICATION**Publication date and author spelling for the hidden
angelshark *Squatina occulta***

V. V. FARIA*†, G. E. CHIARAMONTE‡ AND M. J. P. VAN OIJEN§

**Instituto de Ciências do Mar – Labomar, Universidade Federal do Ceará, Av. da Abolição, 3207, Fortaleza, CE 60165-081, Brazil*, ‡*Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Av. Angel Gallardo 470, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina* and §*Department of Marine Zoology, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Postbus 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands*

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Two dates of publication have been associated with the hidden angelshark *Squatina occulta*. Additionally, the name of the second author of this species has been cited with different spellings in different publications. Both inconsistencies are addressed in this study. It is suggested that the hidden angelshark be consistently cited as *Squatina occulta* Vooren & da Silva 1991.

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Currently, some confusion exists regarding the publication date of the description of the hidden angelshark *Squatina occulta* Vooren & da Silva 1991. Taxonomic literature sources, including a recent redescription of the species (Vaz & Carvalho, 2013), consistently list 1991 as the publication date. On the other hand, online databases, including the Catalogue of Fishes (Eschmeyer, 2013), list 1992 as the date. This is probably due to preprints of the article in which the species was described being distributed in 1991, before the full issue of the journal was printed in 1992. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature states that, in the case of species published before the year 2000, ‘an author who distributed separates in advance of the specified date of publication of the work in which the material was published thereby advanced the date of publication’ (Article 21.8 and Sub-article 21.8.1; ICZN, 1999). Therefore, the publication date of *S. occulta* should be cited as 1991.

Finally, there has been inconsistency in the capitalization and usage of an accessory term belonging to the name of the second author of *S. occulta*. Although no article or recommendation for author spelling exists, consistency is desirable. When cited with the name of the species, K. G. da Silva’s surname has been spelled ‘da Silva’, ‘Da Silva’ and ‘Silva’. All three forms have been used almost equally in taxonomic literature sources, and the first is consistently used in online taxonomic databases (Table I). As

†Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel.: +55 85 3366 7030; email: vicentefaria@gmail.com

TABLE I. Variation in spelling of author's name when cited with *Squatina occulta*. The first column shows the three capitalizations and usages of the accessory term belonging to the surname of K. G. da Silva. The other two columns show sources that adopted each of these forms

Spelling	Taxonomic literature	Online databases
Vooren & da Silva	Eschmeyer (1998); Compagno (1999); Colonello <i>et al.</i> (2007); Figueroa (2011); Vaz & Carvalho (2013)	Bailly (2013); Eschmeyer (2013); Froese & Pauly (2013); ZooBank (2013)
Vooren & Silva	Sunyé & Vooren (1997); Nion <i>et al.</i> (2002); Vögler <i>et al.</i> (2003, 2008); Vooren & Klippel (2005); Gomes <i>et al.</i> (2010); Carvalho <i>et al.</i> (2012)	–
Vooren & Da Silva	Milessi <i>et al.</i> (2001)*; Chiaramonte (2005)*; Castro-Aguirre <i>et al.</i> (2006); Menni & Lucifora (2007)	–

*In these cases, authorship and date were in parenthesis [*i.e.* (Vooren & Da Silva, 1991)]. This is incorrect because the name *S. occulta* is an original combination (the species was never transferred to a different genus).

no specific spelling form may be chosen based on general acceptance, it is suggested here that the one used in the revision by Vaz & Carvalho (2013) and in online taxonomic databases should be followed. The hidden angelshark should henceforth be consistently cited as *Squatina occulta* Vooren & da Silva 1991.

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