



The holotype of *Diomedea fusca* Hilsenberg (Diomedeidae) and its fate

Author: Mlíkovský, Jiří

Source: Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, 141(2) : 167-168

Published By: British Ornithologists' Club

URL: <https://doi.org/10.25226/bboc.v141i2.2021.a7>

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

The holotype of *Diomedea fusca* Hilsenberg (Diomedeidae) and its fate

by Jiří Mlíkovský

Received 12 October 2020; revised 4 April 2021; published 15 June 2021

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:4F0D17AC-6925-409C-B1A3-D222811EF108>

Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria fusca* (Hilsenberg, 1822a) is a widespread but uncommon bird of the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans (Carboneras *et al.* 2020). My search of the literature showed that the circumstances of its discovery and original description are incorrectly reported in major reference works. However, after my paper on the correct original description, the type of the species and its type locality had been accepted for publication, Bruce (2021) dealt with the same issues and reached the same conclusions. However, Bruce (2021) was unaware of the possible fate of the holotype, which is discussed here.

As correctly noted by Bruce (2021), *Diomedea fusca* was described by Hilsenberg (1822a). This was part of a letter written by Hilsenberg on 16 August 1821 from ‘Isle de France’ (= Mauritius) and addressed to Sieber, who forwarded it to the editors of *Zeitung für die elegante Welt*, published in Leipzig, Germany. Karl (or Carl) Theodor Hilsenberg (1802–24) was a German collector then working for Franz Wilhelm Sieber (1789–1844), a Czech botanist, traveller and collector (Leng 1825, Legis-Glückselig 1847, Weitenweber 1852, Dietrich 1881, Ducker 1990).

Hilsenberg (1822a: col. 1163–1164) explicitly stated that he had just one specimen of his new *Diomedea fusca*, which was shot on 23 June 1821 in the ‘Kanal von Mozambique’ (= Indian Ocean south of Madagascar). Furthermore, Hilsenberg (1822a: col. 1164) reported that he had prepared the specimen according to Natterer’s instructions and that he would send it to Sieber with his first shipment (‘mit der ersten Sendung’). Sieber was based in Prague, Bohemia, at the time (Hilsenberg 1822b). The shipment including a number of unspecified birds arrived at Marseille, France, on 7 August 1822 (Legis-Glückselig 1847: 38). Sieber checked it there, then forwarded it to Prague, but its fate thereafter is unknown. Sieber continued from Marseille to Australia, circumnavigated the world, and returned to Prague only in August 1824 (Legis-Glückselig 1847). It is unknown if the albatross was among the birds that reached Marseille with the above-mentioned shipment. In any event, the specimen is not in the natural history museums of Prague (Mlíkovský 2010, Mlíkovský *et al.* 2011; unpubl.) or Vienna, Austria (Schifter *et al.* 2007), then the central museum of the Habsburg monarchy, where Joseph Natterer (1786–1852) worked.

Acknowledgements

I thank Guy Kirwan and an anonymous referee for comments on my manuscript.

References:

- Bruce, M. D. 2021. The source of the name of the Sooty Albatross, *Phoebetria fusca*: a correction. *Sherbornia* 7: 1–4.
- Carboneras, C., Jutglar, F. & Kirwan, G. M. 2020. Sooty Albatross (*Phoebetria fusca*), version 1.0. In del Hoyo, J., Elliott A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D. A. & de Juana, E. (eds.) *Birds of the world*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.sooalb1.01> (accessed 15 January 2021).
- Dietrich, F. C. 1881. Franz Wilhelm Sieber, ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Botanik vor sechzig Jahren. *Jahrb. König. Bot. Gart. u. Bot. Mus. Berlin* 1: 278–306.
- Ducker, S. C. 1990. Early Austrian influence on Australian botany. Pp. 297–304 in Short, P. S. (ed.) *History of systematic botany in Australasia*. Australian Systematic Botany Society, Melbourne.

- Hilsenberg, K. T. 1822a. Unmittelbare Nachrichten aus Ostindien [Part 3]. *Zeitung f. elegante Welt* 22: col. 1163–1166.
- Hilsenberg, K. T. 1822b. Schreiben des Hn. Karl Theodor Hilsenberg von der Insel S. Mauritius an Hn. Franz Wilh. Sieber in Prag. *Isis (Oken)* 11: col. 433–443.
- Legis-Glückselig, A. A. 1847. *Franz Wilhelm Sieber. Ein biographischer Denkstein*. Beck's Universitäts-Buchhandlung, Wien.
- Leng, H. 1825. Carl Theodor Hilsenberg. *Neuer Nekrolog der Deutschen* 3: 1–9.
- Mlíkovský, J. 2010. Birds from extra-European expeditions in the collections of the National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic. Pp. 65–76 in Louette, M., Cael, G. & Tavernier, W. (eds.) *Proc. Sixth European Bird Curators Meeting. J. Afrotrop. Zool., Spec. Iss.* Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren.
- Mlíkovský, J., Benda, P., Moravec, J. & Šanda, R. 2011. Type specimens of recent vertebrates in the collections of the National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic. *J. Natl. Mus. (Prague), Nat. Hist. Ser.* 180: 137–168.
- Schifter, H., Bauernfeind, E. & Schifter, T. 2007. *Die Typen der Vogelsammlung des Naturhistorischen Museums Wien*, vol. 1. Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien.
- Weitenweber, W. R. 1852. Biographische Skizzen böhmischer Naturforscher. 3. Franz Wilhelm Sieber. *Lotos* 2: 116–119.

Address: Center for Historical Ornithology, K Berance 6, CZ-193 00 Praha 9, Czech Republic, e-mail: jmlikovsky@gmail.com

