

Identifying and Naming a Nature Image within PSNZ

A guide to best practice

Identification of Subject: In nature photography, it is important that the subject is named as correctly as possible so that it can be readily recognised by a knowledgeable person. It is the photographer's responsibility to clearly identify the subject as accurately as they can. This is particularly important in the context of competitions, salons, or exhibitions, where clarity supports a fuller appreciation of the image's intent and story.

In cases where identification is challenging, the photographer should try to use the scientific genus only. Identifying fungi, for example, can be difficult when new species are still being identified even today and some species are hard to tell apart unless you're an expert. In these circumstances you might just use the scientific genus name followed by "sp" to indicate that the species is unidentified e.g. *Gliophorus sp.* or *Hygrocybe species*.

Naming of Nature Images: PSNZ allows for a title that is *no longer* than 45 characters, including spaces. The title should identify the Subject correctly by name, by using one or more of the following:

1. a. The common English Name, and/or
- b. The common/regional name in Māori (where applicable), and/or
- c. The Latin name, which is also known as the scientific name. This name is the official, universally recognised way to identify and classify specific species.

For examples see Table1.

2. Additionally, a description that refers to the scientific subject may also be included in the title.

Such a description in the title refers to the action or, a relevant (think scientific) description of the species specialty. Note: in Nature, naming a description is not an Anthropomorphism (the tendency to attribute human forms, behaviours, and emotions to non-human animals or objects).

For examples see Table 2.

Table 1.		
Common English Name	and/or Common Māori Name	and/or Latin Name
Eyeshash fungi		Scutellinia collensoi
Tree Fuchsia	Kōtukutuku	Fuchsia excorticata
Spotted Hyena		Crocuta crocuta
Whitehead	Pōpokotea or Pōpakotea (regional differences)	Mohoua albigilla
Leopard Seal	Popoianore	Hydrurga leptonyx
Ruddy Turnstone		Arenaria interpres
Bar-tailed Godwit	Kuaka	Limosa lapponica

Table 2. Adding a scientific description	
Added Description - Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Banded Dotterel <i>Preening</i>	<i>Bird Scratching</i>
Arctic Terns <i>Fighting</i>	<i>Mid-air tempest</i>
NZ Dotterel <i>on Nest</i>	<i>Maternity Ward</i>
Wrybill <i>with chick</i>	<i>Motherly love</i>
Leopard Seal <i>Skins Penguin to Eat</i>	<i>Murder on the sea</i>
Chiloglottis cornuta <i>flower detail</i>	<i>Close up of a flower</i>
Epilobium species <i>over a Rock</i>	<i>Rocky Flower</i>