

Comment on NACC Proposal 2015-B-3c

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Merging *Vestiaria* with *Drepanis* is long overdue but the proposal does not go far enough. *Palmeria* differs from *Himatione* only in size and in adult plumage neither of which are generic characters. The Crested Honeycreeper was originally described by Wilson from a single juvenile specimen that he called *Himatione dolei* from its obvious resemblance to juveniles of *H. sanguinea*. Olson (2012) reviewed the case for merging *Vestiaria*, *Palmeria*, and *Himatione* in *Drepanis*, which was bolstered by the recent discovery of a spectacular hybrid between *V. coccinea* and *H. sanguinea* (Knowlton et al 2014). Pratt's (2014) failure to cite either Olson (2012) or Knowlton et al (2014) was not an oversight but a deliberate omission of fact, as he was well aware of both publications.

Olson, Storrs L. 2012. History, structure, evolution, behavior, distribution, and ecology of the extinct Hawaiian genus *Ciridops* (Fringillidae, Carduelini, Drepanidini). *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 124(4): 651-674.

Jessie L. Knowlton, David J. Flaspohler, N. C. Rotzel Mcinerney, and Robert C. Fleischer. 2014. First Record of Hybridization in the Hawaiian Honeycreepers: 'Iwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*) × 'Apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*). *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 126 (3): 562-568. (Cited in Olson as "in press" in *Biology Letters* based on information supplied by an author).

Recommendation: Synonymize *Vestiaria* Jarocki 1821, *Himatione* Cabanis 1850, and *Palmeria* 1893, with *Drepanis* Temminck 1820.

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