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

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Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria 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.

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