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DNA-sequence data require revision of the parrot genus *Aratinga* (Aves: Psittacidae)

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The genus *Aratinga* von Spix, 1824, as treated since Peters (1937), consists of 20 to 21 species (Kremer 1989, Collar 1997, Juniper & Parr 1998, Silveira *et al.* 2005, Dickinson 2003, Forshaw 2010) of medium-sized, pointed-tailed, mostly green parakeets that range throughout the Neotropical region. All species currently included in the genus *Aratinga* had already been recognized by Salvadori (1891) and placed in the genus *Conurus*. Ridgway (1916) placed the species in four genera: *Aratinga*, *Eupsittula*, *Nandayus*, and *Thectocercus*; Ridgway provided a rationale for his treatment using morphological and plumage characters, and he included a dichotomous key. Cory (1918) followed Ridgway's (1916) classification. Miranda-Ribeiro (1920) placed the species in four genera: *Conurus*, "*Nendayus*" (= *Nandayus*), *Gymnopsittacus*, and "*Eupsittacula*" (= *Eupsittula*). Peters (1937) placed all members of these genera but *Nandayus nenday* into a single genus, *Aratinga* (Table 1), but provided no rationale for his classification. Nonetheless, his treatment has been followed in all subsequent classifications, including Meyer de Schauensee (1970), Sibley & Ahlquist (1990), Collar (1997), Dickinson (2003), and Forshaw (2010), although Marien & Koopman (1955) suggested retention of three subgenera.

Ribas & Miyaki's (2004) results called into question the monophyly of Peters' broadly defined *Aratinga* when they found that *A. leucophthalma* was only distantly related to the other *Aratinga* sampled and that *Nandayus nenday* was embedded within the sampled *Aratinga* species. Silveira *et al.* (2005) provided additional details delimiting at least three groups within broadly defined *Aratinga* (see also Whitney 1996) and proposed that it was not a monophyletic genus. These three groups also show consistent difference in vocalizations among the groups and similarities among species within each group (B. M. Whitney, pers. comm.). Subsequent studies with much broader taxon sampling (Kirchman *et al.* 2012, Schirtzinger *et al.* 2012) confirmed that the genus consisted of three separate lineages, corresponding in part to the 3-genus classification of Ridgway (1916) and Pinto (1938). Further, Ribas & Miyaki (2004) and Tavares *et al.* (2006) found that the monotypic genus *Nandayus* was embedded in one of the *Aratinga* lineages. Subsequently, Urantowka *et al.* (2012) also found that *Aratinga* species were distributed in the three clades found by previous authors, but also found that *A. acuticaudata* was even more distantly related to the other *Aratinga* and was actually the sister species to *Diopsittaca nobilis*.

These new data require that *Aratinga* sensu Peters (1937) be partitioned into four genera. The type species (by subsequent designation) for *Aratinga* is *solstitialis* Linnaeus, 1758. Two species have traditionally been considered closely related to *A. solstitialis*: *A. jandaya* and *A. auricapillus*. In fact, Meyer de Schauensee (1966), Sick (1993), and others considered them conspecific, and Sibley & Ahlquist (1990) treated them as members of a superspecies. Ribas & Miyaki (2004) included *solstitialis* in their taxon sampling, but Silveira *et al.* (2005) noted that the specimens used were actually of a taxon that they described as a new species, *Aratinga pintoi*. Subsequently, Nemésio and Rasmussen (2009) determined that *A. pintoi* had been previously described as *Psittacus luteus* Boddaert, 1783, which is, in turn, synonym of *Psittacus maculatus* (= *Aratinga maculata*) Statius Muller, 1776, a name that had been relegated to the synonymy *A. solstitialis* and had been overlooked by subsequent authors, including Peters (1937). The plumage characters associated with *maculata* had been dismissed as age variation in *A. solstitialis*, aviary artifacts, or hybrids by everyone except Pinto (1966), until Silveira *et al.* (2005) showed that they represented discrete characters that defined a geographical representative of the *A. solstitialis* group. Therefore, we think it is reasonable to include *A. maculata* in *Aratinga* sensu stricto. Tavares *et al.* (2006) included *solstitialis* in their sampling, but did not provide information on their vouchers and