

Preface

The *Dictionary of Minor Planet Names* (DMPN) was first published in 1991, elucidating the meaning of the named and numbered minor planets. Consecutively, five further editions and four addenda of this monograph followed in roughly three-year intervals 1993, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 in accord with the time of IAU General Assemblies. According to a resolution of IAU Division III of the 2000 Manchester General Assembly DMPN attained the status of an official IAU publication. This 7th edition only updates a fascinating story of a rather breathtaking evolution and completes our common effort in more than a quarter of a century.

Starting from rather low numbers of numbered and named minor planets we experienced an overwhelming accumulation which is summarized in the following table. These figures demonstrate that the count of numbered objects has been multiplied by more than a factor of 120 during the last 30 years! The evolution of the count of new names, however, retarded by a factor of not even 4. The extremely dropped down percentage of named planets should stimulate all discoverers of already numbered minor planets to propose new names in order to produce a much larger portion of unique number/name combinations which exclude any errors in the literature.

The sixth edition (and all her predecessors) together with its two addenda served as the basic survey, which is updated by this edition. It contains not only the newly published names from the period 2018–2021 but also numerous corrections and amendments to earlier editions. The complete work is a thoroughly revised data collection and every effort has

Ed.	Time	numbered	named	ratio
1	Dec. 1991	5 012	3 957	79.0
2	Sep. 1993	5 655	4 512	79.8
3	June 1996	7 041	5 252	74.6
4	May 1999	10 666	6 730	63.1
5	Dec. 2002	52 224	10 038	19.2
5-1	Dec. 2005	120 437	12 804	10.6
5-2	Dec. 2008	207 942	15 056	7.2
6	Dec. 2011	310 376	16 863	5.4
6-1	Jan. 2015	422 636	19 044	4.5
6-2	Dec. 2017	508 765	21 191	4.2
7	Dec. 2021	607 011	22 977	3.8

been made to check and/or correct all information again. It goes without saying that the fundamental structure of DMPN has been left unchanged. As a matter of fact we always are in need of information concerning, for example, life data and/or explanation of name initials. Our colleagues are kindly asked for their support.

A publication like DMPN needs the support and encouragement of many persons. The kind support by the IAU General Secretaries is highly appreciated. We thank Gareth V. Williams, Associate Director of the Minor Planet Center for his helpful piece of advice.

In October 2016 Lutz D. Schmadel passed away after some months of illness.

Being involved in the DMPN from the beginning, the complete task to prepare this edition has been taken over by me since then.

Heidelberg, March 2022

Gernot Burkhardt