

(152–153) Proposals to add two new recommendations in Recommendation 37A

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The scientific name (Principle V, Art. 32.1(b)) and the original description or diagnosis of a new taxon (Art. 36) are limited to the use of Roman letters, and it is assumed that the names of authors will be similarly presented (Rec. 46B). However, data relating to the type specimen (cf. Art. 37 Note 2) in the protologue can be published in the characters of any language. Only for the indication of the type is it recommended that Latin be used (Rec. 37A). Article 37 Ex. 4 shows the herbarium in which the type is conserved indicated originally only in Chinese characters. Designation of the type is essential for valid publication of the name of a new taxon (Art. 37.1), therefore citation of the type specimen should be in Roman letters in the original publication. In order to access readily the information regarding the type specimen of a new species or infraspecific taxon, we propose to add the following recommendations of the *Code*:

(152) Proposal to add a new recommendation in Recommendation 37A:

“37A.2. Indication of the type specimen of a new species or infraspecific taxon should be published in the protologue with its data in Roman letters (See Art. 37.3 Note 2).”

(153) Proposal to add a second new recommendation in Recommendation 37A:

“37A.3. Specification of the herbarium or collection or institution in which the type is conserved should be provided in Roman letters or in the abbreviated form indicated in Art. 37 Note 4.”

(154) Proposal on the gender of generic names ending in *-ites*

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(154) Delete from Art. 62.4 “and those ending in *-ites* as masculine”.

Prior to the 1975 Leningrad Congress, the *Code* gave no consideration to the gender of generic names ending in *-ites*. In a discussion of gender of generic names (in German) in *Taxon* 23: 672–673 (1974) Rauschert proposed a Recommendation that all such names ending in *-ites* should be treated as masculine, the discussion being concerned mostly with names of fossil taxa. In *Taxon* 24: 231 (1975) the Rapporteurs commented simply that “The Committee for Fossil Plants should state an opinion since most although not all names involved are of fossils”. The postal vote had a high majority asking for the proposal to be referred to the Committee for Fossil Plants (*Taxon* 25: 173, 1975), which then recommended acceptance. This was then in turn passed by the 1975 Congress, and the resulting Recommendation to this effect appeared as Rec. 75A.4 in the Leningrad and Sydney *Codes*. It appears that nowhere in this process were generic names ending in *-ites* in extant plants seriously considered.

In *Taxon* 33: 348–350 (1984), Parkinson proposed raising Recommendations on gender to full Article status, without any discussion of genera ending in *-ites*. This accorded with a recommendation in the report of the Committee on Orthography (Demoulin & Nicolson in *Taxon* 35: 794–803, 1986) to the same effect, again without direct reference to *-ites*. The Rapporteurs agreed that it would be preferable to convert such Recommendations to paragraphs of Articles (*Taxon* 36: 250, 1987), again with no comment on *-ites* names, and Rec. 75A was

transformed into Art. 76 in the 1988 Berlin *Code* and re-numbered as Art. 62.4 in the 1994 *Tokyo Code* and subsequent editions.

It seems unfortunate that so little attention has been paid to these names in extant genera, and the ruling is in conflict with current practice in the great majority of such cases. Only in 2005 were some of the endings changed in the IPNI database, but many remain unchanged. The changes that have been made have not yet filtered through into general use. It is not too late to change the *Code* back to where it was before 1975 to accord with longstanding, overwhelming usage. While changes can very easily be made in databases, it is impossible to correct all the botanical literature and herbaria around the world.

Of those generic names in current use in flowering plants, we can find only *Petasites* consistently treated as masculine. *Phragmites* Adans. (*Poaceae*) has been variously masculine or feminine, and the specific epithet of the common species occurring worldwide, *P. australis* (Cav.) Steud., can be either masculine or feminine. Those generic names currently treated as feminine are *Actites* Lander (*Asteraceae*), *Aleurites* J.R. Forster & G. Forster (*Euphorbiaceae*), *Anechites* Griseb. (*Apocynaceae*), *Arrhenechthites* Mattf. (*Asteraceae*), *Balanites* Delile (*Zygophyllaceae*), *Echites* P. Browne (*Apocynaceae*), *Erechthites* Raf. (*Asteraceae*), *Galactites* Moench (*Asteraceae*), *Mesechites* Müll.Arg. (*Apocynaceae*), *Micrechites* Miq. (*Apocynaceae*), *Neorites* L.S. Sm. (*Proteaceae*), *Odontites* Ludw. (*Scrophulariaceae*), *Orites* R. Br. (*Proteaceae*), *Pachites* Lindl. (*Orchidaceae*), *Papuechites* Markgr. (*Apocynaceae*), and *Zeugites* P. Browne (*Poaceae*).

The compulsory ruling seems to have been largely overlooked and very little applied since its introduction in the 1988 Berlin Code. The present Vienna Code (McNeill & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 146. 2006) itself lists *Echites trichotoma* Desf. as a rejected name. A recent proposal to conserve the name *Galactites tomentosa* Moench (Turland in *Taxon* 54: 202–203. 2005) passed through the *Taxon* editorial process and the considerations of the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants (processed by one of the present proposers) right up to the final report (Brummitt in *Taxon* 56: 590. 2007) which should be amended if the present proposal is accepted. *Balanites* Delile, monographed by

Sands in *Kew Bulletin* 56(1): 1–128 (2001), with nine species including the desert date, *B. aegyptiaca* Delile, has always been treated as feminine. *Galactites tomentosa* Moench is a common Mediterranean weed and *Odontites verna* Dumort. is a common species in most of Europe, where 15 other species occur. *Aleurites moluccana* (L.) Willd. is an economically important species. Enforcement now of this overlooked rule would bring changes to these well established names and be very disruptive. Acceptance of the present proposal will allow that established usage dictates gender.