Report of the General Committee: 15

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Summary Decisions are reported on proposals in Reports 65 and 66 from the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants (NCVP): (1) three proposals in Report 65; (2) 33 proposals to conserve or reject names recommended for acceptance in NCVP Report 66; (3) 17 such proposals recommended for rejection in that Committee Report; (4) five conservation proposals for which the NCVP could not reach a firm recommendation; (5) one request to suppress a work under Art. 34; (6) three requests for binding decisions under Art. 53.5 (confusingly similar names). Proposal (1933) on the name of the cultivated apple was referred back to the NCVP. Decisions are also reported on proposals in Report 9 of the Nomenclature Committee for Fossils: (1) 17 proposals to conserve or reject names recommended for acceptance; (2) seven such proposals recommended for rejection. Action is deferred on various proposals pending further discussion.

The previous report of the General Committee for Botanical Nomenclature was published in Taxon 65: 878–879, 2016. General Committee (GC) membership was 25 at the time that all of these proposals were considered so the super-majority (60%) required to approve or reject a proposal was 15 votes. The voting figures are shown against any proposal where the decision was not unanimous. Committee votes are shown in the order: for the proposal – against the proposal – abstain – more discussion/refer back to the Committee.


Action was taken on three proposals that had not been finalised in time for reporting in GC Report 14.

Proposal (1801) on super-conservation of Adoxaceae, nom. cons., was rejected (votes 8–15 – 2 – 0). This means that the correct name for the combined family is Viburnaceae, nom. cons.

Consideration of Prop. (2090) on the spelling of the generic name Mezoneuron/Mezonevron was deferred until the outcome of proposals 344–345 by Greuter & Gandhi (in Taxon 65: 949–951. 2016) at the next International Botanical Congress is known. These proposals aim to clarify two ambiguities in Art. 60: the spelling of botanical names involving i/j and u/v. Proposal (2121) on conservation of Brachypteryum was referred back to the NCVP for further consideration.


The GC agreed unanimously to accept or reject most of the proposals that had been recommended by the NCVP.

Proposals to conserve or reject names

The following conservation and rejection proposals under Art. 14 and 56 are approved as recommended by the NCVP, i.e., the names are conserved or rejected as indicated. Names for which authorship is shown involve conservation against (or on account of) earlier homonyms.


The following conservation and rejection proposals are declined, as recommended by the NCVP, i.e., the names are NOT conserved or rejected as indicated:

(2038) cons. Malaceae nom. cons. (“super-conservation” proposal; 1–24–0–0); (2136) rej. Asperula aristata subsp. scabra; (2173) rej. Asperula longiflora; (2147) cons. Senecio rodriguezii (4–21–0–0); (2150) cons. Plantago serpentina (1–24–0–0; it is suggested that a new proposal be made instead to reject the name P. strictissima sect. outright [utique]); (2177) rej. Rhytiglossa glandulosa (1–24–0–0); (2202) cons. Deiregyne (1–24–0–0); (2204) cons. Pedicularis stenocorys (4–21–0–0); (2205) cons. Pierogyella cylindrica (4–21–0–0); (2206) cons. Fontenellea brasiliensis (4–21–0–0); (2207) cons. Margaritopsis; (2255) cons. Cytanthera mucilaginosa; (2259) cons. Pennisetum clandestinum (the GC agreed with the NCVP that conservation is not necessary because taxonomic experts in the group agree that these names represent two different species); (2260) cons. Pirestra; (2262) cons. Microstylis koordersii (3–22–0–0); (2263) rej. Eriogonum sect. Heterosepala; (2264) cons. Eriogonum microthecum Nutt.

Prop. (1933) on the name of the cultivated apple is referred back to the NCVP for further consideration.

Five proposals were reported without recommendation by the NCVP after two rounds of inconclusive voting. The GC voted to approve them all: (2018) cons. Carex fructa Mack. (20–3–2–0); (2045) cons. Selaginella densa Rydb. (18–5–2–0); (2046) cons. Celtis glabrata Steven ex Planch. (20–2–3–0); (2054) cons. Dryaria (23–1–1–0); (2135) cons. Siphonandra Klotzsch (20–4–1–0).
Proposal to suppress a work (Art. 34)

The GC approved (23–0–0–2) proposal [4] to add Steinwehr’s translations in Königl. Akad. Wiss. Paris Phys. Abh. 5–9, 1754–1760 to Appendix VI of the Code. Conservation proposals (1839–1842) for several currently used names that are affected by this suppression are being considered by the NCVP. It should be noted that the Code recommends (Rec. 14A) maintaining existing usage of names until such proposals have been dealt with by the GC.

Requests for binding decisions under Art. 53.5 on confusable names

(7) Huberia (Melastomataceae) and Hubera (Annonaceae) are ruled (20–5–0–0) as not being sufficiently alike to be confused.  
(8) Uvaria scheffleri and U. schefferi are ruled (unanimously) as being sufficiently alike to be confused.  
(9) Carex scirpoidea and C. scirpoides are ruled (19–6–0–0) as being sufficiently alike to be confused, i.e., they are to be treated as homonyms. This decision confirms Carex interior as the correct name for the taxon originally named C. scirpoides so no vote was needed on Prop. (2130).


The GC agreed unanimously to accept or reject most of the proposals that had been recommended by the NCFoss.

Proposals to conserve or reject names

The following conservation and rejection proposals under Art. 14 and 56 are approved as recommended by the NCFoss, i.e., the names are conserved or rejected as indicated. Names for which authorship is included involve conservation against (or on account of) earlier homonyms.

(2077) cons. Lepidopteris; (2078) cons. Angaropteridium; (2094) rej. Filicites; (2127) cons. Sphenozamites; (2151) cons. Marattiospis (typ. cons.); (2174) cons. Verrucosisporites; (2183) cons. Equisetites (typ. cons.); (2184) cons. Equisetum columnare (typ. cons.); (2185) cons. Lepidophloios; (2186) cons. Coniopteris; (2187) cons. Beania; (2188) cons. Beania gracilis; (2189) cons. Pityostrobus; (2190) cons. Juglandicarya (typ. cons.); (2192) rej. Solenosostrobus; (2193) rej. Frenelites. Also, Prop. (2083) to change authorship of Calamites, nom. cons., in Appendix III and delete Calamitis, orth. var., is approved.

The following conservation proposals are declined, as recommended by the NCFoss, i.e., the names are NOT conserved as indicated: (1996) cons. Carpolithus with that spelling; (2027) cons. Cheirolepidaceae; (2092) cons. Cyclodendron; (2093) cons. Pecopteris; (2099) cons. Bucklandia Brongn.; (2191) cons. Crowella (2–23–0–0). Proposal (2125) to conserve Dalbergia reticulata was not recommended by the NCFoss but that recommendation was reversed after discussion with the NCVP and the GC (see above under NCVP Report 66).

The GC rejected (4–21–0–0) prop. (1995) to conserve Nilssonia with that spelling as being unnecessary. The committee regards the original spelling as an orthographic error, to be corrected to Nilssonia, making the proposal unnecessary.

Action is deferred (i) on proposals (2095, 2096) and (2097, 2098) pending recommendations from the NCVP and the NC Algae respectively, and (ii) on proposals (2152–2173) pending the outcome of proposals (087–090) to amend the Code with respect to hyphenated names.