New Combinations in Rhamnaceae Made Necessary by the "Demoulin" Rule with Two Proposals to Stabilize Botanical Nomenclature

Author(s): Marshall C. Johnston

Reviewed work(s):


Published by: International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT)

Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/1222058

Accessed: 23/07/2012 10:53

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to Taxon.
Proposals to revise ICBN

(3, 4) New combinations in Rhamnaceae made necessary by the “Demoulin” rule with two proposals to stabilize botanical nomenclature.

Summary
Emendations to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature approved by the Sydney Congress require at least two new combinations in Rhamnaceae which were unnecessary under the Leningrad code. Two proposals are offered, both designed to stabilize botanical nomenclature.

As Reveal (1983: 292) ably reminds us, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature was established to stabilize botanical nomenclature. For the last few decades we have been afflicted with only a few unnecessarily destabilizing changes in the Code. Such a change came with the retroactive rule that the publication of a new name of a subspecies, variety, subgenus, etc., automatically created a mandatorily recognized tautonymic counterpart (autonym) typified by the type of the name of the next most inclusive taxon. For over a decade the taxonomic community has adjusted to this superfluous rule, sought a new equilibrium and managed to reject much further gratuitous tinkering with the Code.

However, the Sydney Congress conferred mandatory priority to the autonym over the name of equivalent rank that established it. The far-reaching destabilizing effects of this new rule are becoming apparent in the publication of new combinations. The proposers of this rule and the majority who voted affirmatively must have had benign intentions. Surely, however, it cannot be thought too peevish of me to point out that the new “Demoulin” rule is a wholly unnecessary modification and that its effects without exception run counter to the goal of stabilization.

Two new combinations are now necessary in the Rhamnaceae:


**Rhamnus sphaerosperma** Sw. var. *polymorpha* (Reissek) M. C. Johnston, comb. nov., based on *Francoa polymorpha* Reissek in Martius’ Fl. Bras. 111: 91. 1861, and the autonymic var. *polymorpha* established by *F. polymorpha* var. *pubescens* Reissek, l.c.

(3) Proposal to emend Article 57.3.

Article 57.3 is emended to read:

57.3 A name is treated as having priority over any autonym established by its publication.

Ex. 7. The publication of *Heracleum sibiricum* L. (1753) subsp. *lecokii* (Godron & Gren.) Nyman (1879) automatically and simultaneously established *H. sibiricum* L. subsp. *sibiricum*. When *H. sibiricum* L. (1753) is treated as a subspecies of *H. sphondylium* L. (1753) the correct name is *H. sphondylium* L. subsp. *lecokii* (Godron & Gren.).

Ex. 8. In the classification by Rollins and Shaw, *Lesquerella lasiocarpa* (Hooker ex A. Gray) S. Watson comprises two subspecies, *L. lasiocarpa* subsp. *berlandieri* (A. Gray) Rollins & E. Shaw (1972) and *L. lasiocarpa* subsp. *lasiocarpa* (the name of the latter was autonymic). *Lesquerella lasiocarpa* subsp. *berlandieri* comprises two varieties. The variety that includes the type of subspecies *berlandieri* is named *L. lasiocarpa* subsp. *berlandieri* var. *hispida* (S. Watson) Rollins & E. Shaw (1972) and not *L. lasiocarpa* subsp. *berlandieri* var. *berlandieri*, since the basionym *Synthlipsis berlandieri* var. *hispida* S. Watson (1882) is treated as having priority over the autonym *S. berlandieri* var. *berlandieri* that it established.

We should return to the rules approved by previous congresses including the Twelfth International Botanical Congress at Leningrad, July 1975, to avoid the upheavals of the unnecessary and destabilizing Demoulin rule approved at Sydney. It is difficult to see any advantage to the Demoulin rule that outweighs the upheaval it creates.
(4) Proposal to emend Division III, Provision 1.
Proposal 1 is modified by addition of the following: Furthermore, after 1 January 1988, a modification to the Code will be considered a part of the Code only after its approval at two successive International Botanical Congresses. A modification approved by only one International Botanical Congress will be inserted in the subsequently published edition of the code within brackets in distinctive typography and clearly marked as “Provisional, to take effect only if subsequently approved at the next International Botanical Congress.”

The effect will be to stabilize botanical nomenclature by stabilizing the Code. Only if the Code is stable can nomenclature approach some degree of stability. This proposal provides a “cooling off” interval during which sober reflection and analysis of effects of proposed modifications can be carried out by both the proposers and by the committees on nomenclature. Taxonomists and other users of botanical nomenclature will be forewarned of mischief and havoc in sufficient time to organize for defeat of unnecessary destabilizing modifications.

Literature Cited

Proposed by: Marshall C. Johnston, Department of Botany and Plant Resources Center, The University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712, U.S.A.