Proposal to eliminate hyphens from all names and epithets

In Art. 73.9, delete permission for using a hyphen, so that it reads:

"73.9. The use of a hyphen in a name or epithet is treated as an error to be corrected by deleting the hyphen."

The argument for this change was given satisfactorily by Taylor & Brummitt (Taxon 35: 836-837, 1986) and need not be repeated here. That the corresponding proposal (Art. 20 Prop. B) received 51.8% of the card vote at the Berlin Congress shows it attracted some support. That hyphenated names and epithets cannot currently be retrieved from the "Index Kewensis" database at Kew, unless one knows that they must be enclosed in single quotes, shows that it is still cogent.

If this proposal be accepted, three correlated changes are: (1) amending Art. 20.3 by adding: "However, the use of a hyphen in such a name is to be treated as an error to be corrected by deletion of the hyphen."

(2) amending Art. 23.1 by deleting "or hyphenated" (lines 5 and 6), and (3) deleting Art. 73 Note 2 (after Art. 73.9).

Also editorial changes to examples will be needed, such as Art. 20 Ex. 6-7 and Art. 73 Ex. 13-15. Such amendments would include the reduction to lower case of any consequent mid-word capitals, a matter of typographic usage it seems hardly necessary to specify.

Proposed by: C. Jeffrey, Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE, U.K.