(057–058) Proposals on -opsis and -botrys

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As a result of a survey (David in Taxon 52: 603–608, 2003) on the discrepancies in the use of the two common suffixes, -opsis and -botrys, in generic names and species epithets in botanical nomenclature, the following proposals to amend the ICBN are made.

(057) Standardize -opsidis as the genitive of -opsis by adding at the end of Art. 18.1 the words: “except that the genitive of names ending in -opsis is, in accord with botanical tradition, always -opsidis and, in Art. 60.12, add to statement in parentheses, “see Art. 18.1, last clause”.

There has been some confusion over whether to correct names formed using the genitive -opsidis to the classically correct -opsis. The preponderance of names have been based on the former rather than the latter. The addition of the above wording to Art. 18.1 covers the formation of family names from generic names ending in -opsis. The addition to Art. 60.12 links the article concerning the formation of epithets of fungal names derived from generic names of associated organisms with the new wording of Art. 18.1.

(058) Add -botrys to the list of endings deemed to be masculine in Article 62.2 (a) so that it reads:

“(a) Compounds ending in -botrys, -codon, -myces, -odon, -panax, -pogon, -stemon, and other masculine words, are masculine.”

The majority of botanical generic names with the ending -botrys are feminine but a number, in accordance with the Greek noun, are masculine. It is proposed that since the name of by far the largest genus, Artabotrys, with over 100 epithets is masculine that the least disruption would be caused by determining -botrys to be masculine.