

## (060–062) Proposals to allow specific epithets that are eponyms to be formed as nouns in the nominative singular

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DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.12705/643.34>

### (060) Add a new Article and two new Examples after Art. 60.12:

“60.12bis. For names of species and infraspecific taxa, epithets formed by analogy with Rec. 60B are admitted.”

“Ex. n. *Syringa josikaea* J. Jacq. ex Rchb. (Iconogr. Bot. Pl. Crit. 8: 32. 1830, ‘*Josikaea*’), being named in honour of Countess Rozália Csáky, Baroness Jósika, is not to be corrected to “*josikae*”.”

“Ex. n. In *Cacalia kleinia* L. (Sp. Pl.: 834. 1753, ‘*Kleinia*’), the specific epithet is taken from an earlier generic designation (Linnaeus, Hort. Cliff.: 395. 1738) honouring the German zoologist Jacob Theodor Klein. Rec. 60C.1 notwithstanding, it is not to be corrected to “*kleinii*”.”

### (061) If Prop. (060) is accepted, change Art. 60.12 accordingly (new text in bold):

“60.12. The use of a termination (for example *-i*, *-ii*, *-ae*, *-iae*, *-anus*, or *-ianus*) contrary to Rec. 60C.1 is treated as an error to be corrected (see also Art. 32.2). However, terminations of epithets formed in accordance with **Art. 60.12bis** and Rec. 60C.2 are not to be corrected.”

### (062) If Prop. (060) is accepted, change the first sentence of Rec. 60C.1 accordingly (new text in bold):

“60C.1. When personal names are given Latin terminations in order to form specific and infraspecific epithets, formation of those epithets is as follows (but see **Art. 60.12bis** and Rec. 60C.2):”

In the *Berlin Code* (Greuter & al. in *Regnum. Veg.* 118. 1988) a small but significant change was editorially introduced to what was then Art. 73.10 and is now Art. 60.12. The old wording of this Article, regulating the use of epithets of names of species or infraspecific taxa that are derived from personal names, precluded misuse of terminations of epithets that were either adjectives or nouns in the genitive and that were explicitly listed in Rec. 73C.1 (now Rec. 60C.1). Specific and infraspecific epithets derived from personal names in any other way were not regulated. The new text of the Article limited formation of such epithets to the cases listed in Rec. 73C.1. This means that, starting from 1988 but in effect retroactively, epithets of names of species or

infraspecific taxa may be formed only as adjectives or nouns in the genitive; other ways of formation are precluded but seem to be correctable under the present Art. 32.2. First of all, the use of eponyms expressed by nouns in the nominative, i.e., originally intended for generic names and formed as described in Rec. 60B, is precluded.

However, such deviating names, though certainly uncommon, are notable and well established in botanical nomenclature. The beginning of this practice dates back even to Linnaeus, who regularly used old generic designations for his specific epithets when a certain genus failed to meet his reformed taxonomic criteria. For example, Linnaeus reduced to synonymy his own generic name *Kleinia*, which he introduced in *Hortus Cliffortianus* (1738) to honour the German zoologist, Jacob Theodor Klein (1685–1759). When Linnaeus suppressed this generic name, he retained it in the specific epithet of *Cacalia kleinia* L. 1753. Similarly, the generic name *Dubyaea* DC. 1838, commemorating Jean Étienne Duby (1798–1885), was retained in specific epithets when that genus was merged with *Lactuca* L. and then *Crepis* L., i.e., in the species names *Lactuca dubyaea* C.B. Clarke 1876 and *Crepis dubyaea* (C.B. Clarke) C. Marquand & Airy Shaw 1929.

Another well-known example is *Syringa josikaea* J. Jacq. ex Rchb. 1830, published in honour of its discoverer, Countess Rozália Csáky, Baroness Jósika. Its specific epithet accords with our present-day recommendations for names of genera and subdivisions thereof (though in the time of Jacquin, the principles of Linnaeus, largely followed after his *Critica botanica* and *Philosophia botanica*, allowed any name to serve as a specific epithet).

Since these names are very well established in botanical literature and are still recorded in IPNI (<http://www.ipni.org>) as validly published in their original form, it would be of no benefit to correct these names solely in order to achieve a greater uniformity in eponyms at the rank of species and below. To retain such names in use, I propose a separate provision, complementary to Art. 60.12. I assume that modern practice of coining such names is very limited, and allowing this practice to continue would make no significant disturbance to the system of eponyms regulated by Rec. 60C.