

(261) Proposal to permit that an epitype found to be more than one specimen can be subsequently typified

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Article 9.17 of the *Melbourne Code* (McNeill & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 154. 2012) rules: “A designation of a lectotype or neotype that later is found to refer to a single gathering but to more than one specimen [...] may be further narrowed to a single one of these specimens by way of a subsequent lectotypification or neotypification.” However, there is also another kind of a type specimen that can be selected at any time, if necessary, i.e. an epitype (Art. 9.8), which was established by the *Tokyo Code* (Greuter & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 131.

1994). It is obvious that in the future it will also be possible to find a designation of an epitype that refers to a single gathering but to more than one specimen. In such a case the *Melbourne Code* does not permit a subsequent epitypification, and there is no other rule explaining how to proceed. Moreover, Art. 9.20 rules: “The author who first designates [...] an epitype must be followed; a different epitype may be designated only if the original epitype is lost or destroyed” – therefore the first choice of epitype cannot be challenged.

As epitypes have already been in use for about 20 years, we propose to supplement Art. 9.17 so that it is no longer limited to subsequent lectotypification or neotypification, but also permits subsequent epitypification.

(2611) Amend Art. 9.17 as follows and add a reference to Art.

9.20 (new text in bold, deleted text in strikethrough):

“*9.17*. A designation of a lectotype, ~~or~~ neotype, **or epitype** that later is found to refer to a single gathering but to more than one specimen must nevertheless be accepted (subject to Art. 9.19), but may be

further narrowed to a single one of these specimens by way of a subsequent lectotypification, ~~or~~ neotypification, **or epitypification.**”

“*9.20*. The author who first designates (Art. 7.9 and 7.10) an epitype must be followed; a different epitype may be designated only if the original epitype is lost or destroyed (**see also Art. 9.17**). [...]”

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