

(282–283) Proposals to add a new paragraph with new Examples to Article 55 dealing with names originally assigned to later homonyms and subsequently assigned to respective earlier homonyms

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Article 55.3 of the *Melbourne Code* (McNeill & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 154. 2012) rules that the names of species or subdivisions of genera earlier assigned to genera the names of which are earlier rejected homonyms are legitimate, without change of authorship or date, when assigned to genera the names of which are the corresponding later conserved or sanctioned homonyms. For example (Art. 55 Ex. 4), the names *Alpinia languas* J. F. Gmel. (1791) and *A. galanga* (L.) Willd. (1797), originally assigned to *Alpinia* L. (1753), are legitimate, with the same authorships and dates, when assigned to the conserved later homonym *Alpinia* Roxb. (1810).

In my recent studies, I found a somewhat similar situation in which species names originally assigned to genera the names of which are later illegitimate homonyms are subsequently assigned (or “transferred”) to genera the names of which are the corresponding earlier legitimate homonyms. According to Art. 55.1, such names published under later illegitimate homonyms may be legitimate, but I consider that there is no explicit provision in Art. 55 for the names to be re-assigned to the earlier homonyms. Obviously, it is unnecessary in such cases to publish new combinations, because this would result in later “isonyms”, which would have no nomenclatural status (Art. 6 Note 2). Hence, the names when re-assigned should remain legitimate with no change to authorship and date, parallel to what is permitted by Art. 55.3. I therefore propose to add a new paragraph with new Examples to Art. 55.

The first Example concerns the re-assignment of a species name from a later to an earlier generic homonym when those homonyms are applied taxonomically to different genera. The second and third Examples concern the re-assignment of species names from a later to an earlier generic homonym when those homonyms are applied to the same genus.

(282) Add a new paragraph to Art. 55:

“55.4. The epithet of the name of a species or subdivision of a genus that was originally placed under a generic name that is a later

homonym, or the final epithet of the name of an infraspecific taxon that was originally placed under a species name that is a later homonym, may be placed under the respective legitimate earlier homonym without change of authorship and date.”

(283) If Prop. (282) is accepted, add up to three new Examples to Art. 55:

“Ex. 5. The epithet of *Haplanthus hygrophiloides* T. Anderson (1867) was originally placed under the illegitimate generic name *Haplanthus* T. Anderson (1867), a later homonym of *Haplanthus* Nees (1832). When *H. hygrophiloides* is considered to belong instead to *Haplanthus* Nees, it is so accepted without change of authorship and date.”

“Ex. 6. When the homonyms *Acidosasa* B. M. Yang (1981) and *Acidosasa* C. D. Chu & C. S. Chao (1982) are considered to apply to the same genus, *A. chinensis* C. D. Chu & C. S. Chao (1982) is so accepted even though its epithet was originally placed under the illegitimate *Acidosasa* C. D. Chu & C. S. Chao (1982).”

“Ex. 7. When the homonyms *Dendrocalamopsis* Q. H. Dai & X. L. Tao (1982) and *Dendrocalamopsis* (L. C. Chia & H. L. Fung) Keng f. (1983) are considered to apply to the same genus, *D. oldhamii* (W. Munro) Keng f. (1983) and seven other simultaneously published species names are so accepted even though their epithets were originally placed under the illegitimate *Dendrocalamopsis* (L. C. Chia & H. L. Fung) Keng f. (1983).”

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