

## (344–345) Two proposals to clarify Article 60.5 and provide for standardized spellings in cases involving the letters u/v and i/j

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### (344) Add a word in Art. 60.5, and a sentence at the end (new text in bold):

“60.5. When a name has been published in a work where the letters *u*, *v* or *i*, *j* are used interchangeably or in any other way incompatible with modern **typographical** practices (e.g. one letter of a pair not being used in capitals, or not at all), those letters are to be transcribed in conformity with modern nomenclatural usage. **When names or epithets are derived from Greek words that include the diphthong *ey* (εϋ), its transcription as *ev* is treated as an error correctable to *eu*.**”

### (345) Add another sentence at the end of Art. 60.5:

“[...] **When names or epithets of Latin but not Greek origin include the letter *i* used as a semi-vowel (followed by another vowel to form a diphthong), it is treated as an error correctable to *j*.**”

Article 60.5 has sometimes been misunderstood to cover standardizations outside of its remit. This is demonstrated by the current Ex. 11 placed under it but not supported by it. Also, a recent recommendation, by the Committee for Vascular Plants (in *Taxon* 62: 1321. 2013), not to conserve the spelling of the name *Mezoneuron* Desf., is based on the erroneous assumption that the original spelling *Mezonev-ron* is correctable under Art. 60.5 and that the conservation proposal is by consequence unnecessary.

Such misunderstanding apparently came about because Art. 60.5 includes two similar phrases, which, although placed in different

semantic contexts, were taken to mean the same: “modern practices” and “modern nomenclatural usage”. If one reads the provision carefully, one finds that it does not permit the correction of *i* to *j* or *v* to *u* whenever such correction is supported by modern nomenclatural usage (however defined). Correctability is confined to names “published in a work where the letters *u*, *v* or *i*, *j* are used [...] in a way incompatible with modern practices”, meaning typographical standards that deviate from those now accepted, e.g. due to unavailability of appropriate type. Names that appear in a publication that follows modern typesetting practices are not correctable under Art. 60.5. The proposed addition of the word “typographical” ahead of “practices”, while basically editorial, will help to clarify this point.

Concerning the *v* vs. *u* situation, committees apparently were conscious of that limitation in the past and recommended the conservation of the names *Euonymus* L. (“*Evonymus*”) and *Neuropteris* (Brongn.) Sternb. (*Filicites* sect. *Neuropteris*), with those spellings. The Committee for Vascular Plants now dismissed these precedents, with the result that, should its recommendation be approved, *Mezoneuron* Desf., universally so spelled, will have to revert to the original spelling *Mezonev-ron*. Proposal 344 has the aim to obviate that change and, also, make unnecessary future conservation proposals in parallel cases.

At the generic level, acceptance of Prop. 344 would have a beneficial, stabilizing effect in at least the following cases, in addition to *Mezoneuron*: *Euonymopsis* (“*Evonymopsis*”) H. Perrier, *Neurocallis* (“*Nevrocallis*”) Fée, and *Neurodium* (“*Nevrodium*”) Fée. All three

names are listed in *Index Nominum Genericorum (Plantarum)* (ING; <http://botany.si.edu/ing/>) under their original spelling, but two of them appear in other major databases with the “corrected” spelling. Other cases may exist, as the original spelling of the many generic names of Greek origin that include the *eu* diphthong has not been checked. Two names of unispecific genera would change from the widely adopted spelling with *ev* to the rarely used *eu* one: *Evodianthus* Oerst. and *Evodiopanax* (Harms) Nakai. If Prop. 345 is approved, the Editorial Committee may wish to include one or more of the above examples of names to be corrected, and add the following as names not to be corrected: *Evansia* (commemorating Evans), *Evax* (non-Greek origin, etymology unknown), and *Evolvulus* (Latin origin).

Concerning the alternative use of *i* and *j*, correctability as spelled out above has traditionally been taken for granted, even though there

has never been a rule to that effect. One aspect to be considered when formulating such a provision is that there is apparently no consistent relevant tradition with regard to names derived from Greek, and it does not seem advisable to try and enforce one now. In such names, the use of *i* followed by a vowel is usually regarded as the correct solution, as in names formed from Greek *ion* (= violet), but there are important exceptions such as *Jatropha* L., nom. cons., and *Clypeola jonthlaspi* L. In *Maianthemum* Wigg., nom. cons., also of Greek origin, the letters *ia* do not form a diphthong but belong to different word elements (*maios* and *anthemum*).

Proposal 345 aims at enshrining what has so far been taken for granted. If the proposed addition is approved, the current Art. 60 Ex. II can be maintained to illustrate it.