Submission deadlines and change of dates

It was announced in Taxon 56: 270–271 (February 2007) (see also http://www.botanik.univie.ac.at/iapt/downloads/guidelines_amend_code.pdf ) that Taxon would close for proposals to amend the Code on 31 March 2010. Because Taxon is publishing six issues in 2010, it has been possible to extend this deadline. Proposals must now be received by 31 May 2010 to be certain of publication. As hitherto, late submissions may be accepted at the editors’ discretion if no reviewing or major editing is necessary; these must now be submitted by the end of August 2010.

(104–108) Proposals to amend Article 9.15, add an example to Article 37, and make additions to Appendices III and IV

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(104) Amend Article 9.15, so that it reads as follows (new text in italic):

“9.15. A designation of a lectotype or neotype that later is found to refer to a single gathering but to more than one specimen must nevertheless be accepted (subject to Art. 9.17), but may be further narrowed to a single one of these specimens by way of a subsequent lectotypification or neotypification. On or after 1 January 2013, such designation is not effective unless a unique herbarium barcode or accession number of the sheet is cited after the indication of the herbarium or other collection.”

During the course of revisionary studies, taxonomists often ascertain only with difficulty which one specific specimen is the actual lectotype or neotype designated by an earlier author or authors when a single gathering contains more than one specimen but the author or authors did not specify which in the previous typification. According to Article 9.15 of the Vienna Code, the subsequent typification process is necessary if the previous lectotype or neotype was not precisely indicated. Some researchers have realized that the requirement of typification is deficient in accordance with the Vienna Code. Bandopadhyay & Pathak (in Taxon 57: 318–319. 2008) recommended to designate a lectotype or neotype by mentioning the herbarium barcode or accession number of the sheet (also see Shui & Wen in Taxon 57: 315. 2008), and, if possible, by publishing a photograph of the specimen, or by any other means. In order to avoid re-typtification process of a name, we propose that typification require the citation of a unique herbarium barcode or accession number of the lectotype or neotype after the citation of the herbarium, e.g., by its Index herbariorum acronym. This requirement is easily achieved because each herbarium specimen has been given a unique accession number or barcode in increasing number of herbaria. If this proposal is adopted, the typification process will become more precise, and Article 9.17 and Recommendation 9A.2 of the Code more easily complied with.

We propose to apply a stricter application of typification from 1 January 2013 after the next International Botanical Congress held in 2011.

(105) Add an example to Article 37:

“Ex. 6. The name “Holboellia latistaminea” originally described by T. C. Chen (in Fl. Republ. Popularis Sin. 29: 307. 2001) was not validly published because two herbaria (IBSC, KUN) were simultaneously listed after the single cited specimen (W. P. Fang 15449), and neither was indicated as the place of deposition of the type. The name was validly published by S. Y. Jin (Cat. Type Spec. Herb. China, Suppl. II: 112. 2007) where the specimen conserved in IBSC is indicated as holotype, and the other in KUN as isotype, and a full and direct reference to Chen’s previously published Latin diagnosis (Article 45.1) was provided.”

According to Article 37.7, in order for a name to be validly published on or after 1 January 1990, the single herbarium or collection or institution in which the type is conserved must be specified. Article 37 Ex. 4 and Ex. 5 represent two different cases of Article 37. However, there is the third case which is not currently exemplified, i.e., two or more herbaria or collections or institutions are simultaneously specified but not indicated that the holotype is conserved in the single herbarium, and isotype or isotypes conserved in the same and/or other herbarium(s). The name Holboellia latistaminea T. Chen falls into the third case, because two herbaria were simultaneously listed after the single cited gathering but the one which housed the holotype was not indicated. In order for a better understanding of this article, we propose to add this example to Article 37.7. This example is also applicable for Article 37.6.

(106) Add “gend. cons.” at the beginning of Appendix III, prior to orth. cons.

Add the following sentence: “gend. cons. gender conservanda, gender to be conserved (Art. 14.11), e.g., masculine, feminine, neuter.”
(107) Add “nom. illeg.” at the beginning of Appendix III, prior to orth. cons. (after gend. cons. as proposed).

Add the following sentence: “nom. illeg.: nomen illegitimimum, illegitimate name, a validly published name that is not in accordance with one or more rules (Art. 6.4), principally those on superfluity (Art. 52) and homonymy (Art. 53 and 54).”

(108) Add “orth. cons.” at the beginning of Appendix IV, prior to typ. cons.

Add the following: “orth. cons. orthographia conservanda, spelling to be conserved (Art. 14.11).”


(109) Proposal to add a new paragraph to Recommendation 9A

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Biswas (in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 15: 38–39, 1991) designated “MEGHALAYA Barapani, July 6, 1959, G.K. Deka 4568 (ASSAM)” as the holotype of Microlepia brevistrigosa A. Biswas, but, at our request, Dr. R. Gogoi has searched for the aforesaid specimen and has kindly informed us (pers. comm., 2009) that it is not present either in the type or general herbarium at ASSAM. We have, however, found a specimen of G.K. Deka s.n. at CAL with the herbarium accession number 4568 that bears the name ‘Micropleia brevistrigosa Biswas’ and is inscribed as “holotype” in Dr. Biswas’s own handwriting. For clarification we approached Dr. Biswas and learnt that this specimen is indeed the holotype. She confirmed (pers. comm., 2009) that she had made a mistake by writing ASSAM instead of CAL, as the place of deposition of the type, because the sheet at CAL had printed on it “Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle Herbarium, Shillong”.

The data related to the type specimen given in the protologue are confusing in many aspects because the type is at CAL instead of ASSAM, the year of collection is 1959, not 1939 and 4568 is the accession number of the sheet and not G.K. Deka’s field number. In fact no field number of G.K. Deka appears on the sheet. Fraser-Jenkins (Taxon. Rev. Indian Subcont. Pterid.: 82. 2008) stated ‘M. brevistrigosa A. Biswas (type, CAL!)’ and did not mention anything about examining the holotype or any of the paratypes or about the aforesaid discrepancies.

Ghosh in Ghosh & al., Pterid. Fl. East. India 1: 338, 2004 cited ‘MANIPUR: IT. Road, Tamenglong Dist. March 9, 1984, B. Ghosh 16463’ as the type of Pteris linearis var. manipurensis S.R. Ghosh. A line drawing (fig. 100) in the aforesaid book (p. 339) was also provided. This new variety was, however, not validly published as he did not state the place of deposition of the type. We could locate the specimen at CAL on which the line drawing is based. It has the same details as given by Ghosh (l.c.) for the intended type except that the collection number is B. Ghosh 16463 instead of 16443. It is also annotated by Mr. S.R. Ghosh in his own handwriting as “Pteris linearis Poir. var. manipurensis S.R. Ghosh”. At our request Mr. Ghosh (pers. comm., 2009) kindly informed us that the line drawing given in the publication is indeed based on B. Ghosh 16463 and that collection was intended as the type specimen, the discrepancy in the collector’s number is because of a typographic error. There is a specimen, B. Ghosh 16443 (CAL!), that was collected on “8.3.1984 from 1400 m, Tamenglong, Manipur” and that is identified on the sheet as “Asplenium cheilosorum Kunze ex Mett.”.

To avoid any kind of confusion regarding recognition of type specimens we are proposing a new Recommendation as follows:

(109) Insert a new Recommendation 9A.6:

“9A.6. It is recommended that authors of names who discover an error or errors in the data published in the protologue, either because of personal inadvertence or due to typographical mistakes, should publish a correction and attach the reference to that publication to type sheet. If publication is not possible, authors in those circumstances should at least record the error(s) along with their full names and signatures, especially for those errors that would otherwise be seriously misleading.”

This new Recommendation, if sincerely followed, would help future workers to recognize type specimens without the slightest confusion even if the type details given in the protologue vary considerably from the actual facts.

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