



General Committee Report 5

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PROPOSALS TO CONSERVE OR REJECT
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Edited by Dan H. Nicolson¹

General Committee Report 5

Dan H. Nicolson¹, Secretary

Summary:

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The General Committee approves proposals recommended by the Fungi and Lichens Committee Report 2; reconfirms conservation of two names left out of the last *Code*; and reviews the status of eleven prior General Committee nonbinding decisions on confusability of similar names.

The previous General Committee Report (*Taxon* 42: 110-111. 1993) dealt with proposals recommended in Bryophyta Committee Report 1 and Spermatophyta Committee Report 37.

The Committee notes, with sadness, the passing of Arthur Cronquist in April 1992. This death left us with 19 members (3 failed to submit a ballot).

The Report of the Committee for Fungi and Lichens: 2 (*Taxon* 41: 99-108. 1992) was considered. The General Committee voted (14 yes, 2 abstaining) to approve all recommendations of the Committee.

Under Art. 15.1 of the *Code*, retention (or rejection) of the following names “is authorized subject to the decision of a later International Botanical Congress.”

Prop. 768 *Phellinus* Quélet, type entry correct as in 1988 *Code*.

Prop. 792 *Lichen subfuscus* L., rejected.

Prop. 830 *Scleroderma aurantium* (L. : Pers.) Pers., rejected.

Prop. 862 *Laetiporus* Murray, conserved.

Prop. 864 *Siphula* Fries, 1831, conserved.

Prop. 871 *Buellia* De Not., conserved.

Prop. 880 *Hyaloscypha* Rond., conserved with a conserved type.

Prop. 897 *Gnomoniaceae* Winter, conserved.

Prop. 899 *Mycosphaerellaceae* Lindau, conserved.

Prop. 900 *Physciaceae* Zahlbr., conserved.

Prop. 902 *Rhytismataceae* Chevall., conserved.

Prop. 903 *Taphrinaceae* Gäumann & Dodge, conserved.

Prop. 905 *Trapeliaceae* Hertel, conserved.

Prop. 909 *Pseudocyphellaria* Vainio, conserved.

Prop. 922 *Cryptococcus* Vuill., conserved.

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Prop. 925 *Anema* Nyl. ex Forssell, conserved.

Prop. 936 *Guignardia* Viala & Ravaz, conserved with a conserved type.

Prop. 937 *Pyrenotea* Fries, rejected against *Lecanactis* Körber.

Prop. 939 *Mollisia* (Fries) P. Karsten, conserved.

Conserved names overlooked in last Code

Two names that were approved for conservation by the Berlin Congress in 1987 were inadvertently omitted from the Berlin *Code*. The General Committee voted (14 yes, 2 abstain) to reconfirm these conservations. They are:

Prop. 580 *Centotheca* Desv., nom. et orth. cons.: recommended by Spermatophyta Committee Report 28 (Taxon 33: 705-706. 1984); recommended by General Committee Report 1982-1985 (Taxon 35: 552. 1986).

Prop. 755 *Cymbella* C. Agardh, nom. cons.: Recommended by Algae Committee Report (Taxon 36: 67. 1987); recommended by General Committee Report (Taxon 37: 439. 1988). Although Voss's 1988 General Committee Report was published after the 1987 Congress, it was among the Committee Reports presented to the Congress and was there approved.

Prior nonbinding decisions on confusability of names

Until the Sydney (1983) *Code* all questions of "orthographic variants", "names likely to be confused", etc. were treated under Art. 75. At Sydney it was decided to handle these under two Articles. True orthographic variants, defined as similarly spelled names with the same type, remained in Art. 75. Names likely to be confused, defined as similarly spelled names with different types, were moved to Art. 64.2 and, if so considered, are "to be treated as homonyms", the subject of Art. 64.

The two groups are treated quite differently. The provision on similar spellings with the same type tends to be interpreted rather broadly. Slightly different spellings with the same type are, after all, confusing and undesirable. Under Art. 75 only one orthographic variant is validly published and all others are to be corrected to it. A broad interpretation of similarity in spelling as orthographic variants solves problems, e.g. by obviating the need for new combinations.

The provision on similar spellings with different types tends to be interpreted rather narrowly. Why abandon later similarly spelled names unless the earlier similarly spelled names are accepted names appearing in the same works? A narrow interpretation of similarity (confusability) in spellings with different types avoids otherwise unnecessary renamings.

After the Sydney Congress all examples were transferred from Art. 75 to Art. 64.2. In addition, a footnote stated a procedure for getting a "binding decision" when it is doubtful whether heterotypic names are sufficiently alike to be confusing. The footnote closed with the comment that "none of the examples are in the nature of a binding decision."

There are now four different kinds of examples under Art. 64.3 (the former 64.2). (1) Non-binding examples voted in by Congresses or inserted by the Editorial Committee: Ex. 5, 6, 8 and some of 9. (2) Non-binding examples voted by the General Committee before opinions were "binding": Ex. 7 and some of 9 (some are not in the *Code*). (3) Binding decisions: Ex. 10. (4) Conservations involving rejection of confusable names: Ex. 11.

The General Committee here considers the second kind, reviewing eleven earlier opinions. They were put before the Committee to decide whether they should be maintained or reversed; in either binding or non-binding form. A simple majority of members (at least 10 of 19) is required for the General Committee to recommend a binding decision to the next Congress (Taxon 31: 314. 1982; Taxon 37: 441. 1988).

1. Spermatophyte *Kadalia* Raf. (1838) had been voted (10 : 2, Taxon 15: 287. 1966) to be confusable with *Kadali* Adanson (1763), both *Melastomataceae*, as now listed in Art. 64 Ex. 7 in a non-binding way. But *Kadali* Adanson is an illegitimate renaming of *Osbeckia* L. (1753) and therefore is unlikely to compete as an accepted name and create confusion. The General Committee was asked whether they agreed that these names are not confusable, even though *Kadalia* Raf. threatens already conserved 5659 *Dissotis* Benth. (1849), and voted: 10 yes, 3 no, 1 abstain, 2 delete example. This is sufficient for the General Committee to recommend reversing the previous opinion by way of a binding decision. However, to provide a modicum of stability the General Committee recommends that (1) the *Kadalia/Kadali* example be dropped from Art. 64 rather than explicitly reversed, and (2) *Kadalia* Raf. (1838) be added as a rejected name under 5659 *Dissotis* Benth. (1849). Recommended actions: delete *Kadalia/Kadali* in Art. 64, Ex. 7, and add *Kadalia* Raf. as rejected name sub 5659.

2. Fern *Gymnocarpium* Newman (1851) had been voted (10 : 1, Taxon 15: 287. 1966) to be an illegitimate later homonym of (confusable with) “*Gymnocarpum* Steudel”, the latter an orthographic variant of *Gymnocarpus* Forssk. (1775, *Caryophyllaceae*). Today’s Art. 75 rules that Steudel’s later orthographic variant is not validly published and is to be automatically corrected to the validly published original spelling. The General Committee was asked if this opinion should be allowed to lapse and not become binding (11 yes, 3 no, 1 make binding as non-confusable, 1 abstain). Action: Do nothing (example not in the *Code*).

3. Hepatic *Colura* (Dum.) Dum. (1835) had been voted (6 : 4 : 2, Taxon 15: 287. 1966) not to be confusable with *Coluria* R. Br. (1823, *Rosaceae*). Apparently both names are in current use without confusion because they apply to such different groups. The General Committee was asked whether the earlier opinion should become binding (14 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain). Recommended action: add binding decision in example (not confusable).

4. Spermatophyte *Acanthococos* Barb. Rodr. (1900, *Arecaceae*) had been voted (16 : 0, Taxon 18: 735. 1969) not to be confusable with *Acanthococcus* Lagerh. (1883, Red Algae). The General Committee was asked whether this opinion should become binding (13 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain). The example needs correction: *Acanthococcus* Lagerh. (1883) is an illegitimate later homonym, to be replaced by the legitimate earlier homonym *Acanthococcus* Hook. f. & Harv. (1845, also Red Algae). Recommended actions: correct current example and list as binding decision (not confusable).

5. Spermatophyte *Rauhia* Traub (1957, *Amaryllidaceae*) had been voted (8 : 5, Taxon 18: 735. 1969) not to be confusable with *Rauia* Nees & Martius (1823, *Rutaceae*). The General Committee was asked whether this opinion should become binding (14 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain). Recommended action: add binding decision in example (not confusable).

6. Fungus *Stipella* Léger & Gauth. (1932, *Zygomycotina*, parasite of flies) had been voted (8 : 6, Taxon 22: 152. 1973) to be a variant of [confusable with] *Stypella* Möller (1895, Fungi: *Tremellaceae*). This opinion was disregarded by the monographer of insect parasites (Lichtwardt, 1986) who accepted *Stipella*. Both names are now in use and appear on the draft list of Names in Current Use. They represent taxa about as different as motile, microscopic *Euglena* and kelp. The General Committee was asked whether the former opinion should be reversed, and whether this was to become a binding decision (8 yes, 4 no, 4 abstain). The Committee for Fungi and Lichens is now being asked to consider the matter. Action: await its recommendation (example not now in the *Code*).

7. Spermatophyte *Solanum saltense* (Bitter) Morton (1944, *Solanaceae*) had been voted (8 : 4, Taxon 22: 153. 1973) to be confusable with *S. saltiense* S. Moore (1895). Shortly after this decision, *S. fundatum* Morton (1976) was published as a replacement name. The General Committee was asked whether this should become a binding decision (15 yes, 1 abstain). Recommended action: list as binding decision (confusable).

8. Alga *Acanthoeca* W. Ellis (1930, *Acanthoecaceae*) had been voted (15 : 0, Taxon 22: 313. 1973) to be confusable with *Acanthoica* Lohman (1902, Algae: *Coccolithophyceae*). The General Committee was asked whether they upheld their previous opinion, which they did (9 yes, 3 no, 4 abstain) but without recommending a binding decision. The Committee for Algae is now being asked to consider the matter. Action: await its recommendation (maintain as at present in Ex. 7).

9. Fossil *Conostoma* Will. (1876, Pteridosperm ovule) had been voted (14 : 3, Taxon 22: 313. 1973) not to be confusable with *Conostomum* Sw. ex F. Weber & Mohr (1804, Musci). There are problems: (1) *Conostoma* Will. was not validly published (3 species, no generic description) and (2) there is another *Conostoma* Bat. & J. L. Bezerra (1965, Fungi). The General Committee was asked whether the previous vote should be allowed to lapse (10 yes, 4 no, 2 abstain). Action: do nothing (example not in the *Code*).

10. Spermatophyte *Mooria* Montrouz. (1860, *Myrtaceae*) had been voted (11 : 6, Taxon 22: 313. 1973) to be confusable with *Moorea* Lem. (1855, *Poaceae*, *nom. rej.*, sub *Cortaderia* Stapf, *nom. cons.*). Mabberley equated it with *Cloezia* Brongn. & Gris (1864), a small genus (8 species) in New Caledonia. The General Committee was asked whether they agreed that these were not confusable (8 yes, 4 no, 4 abstain) but does not recommend a binding decision. The Committee for Spermatophyta is being asked to consider the matter. Action: await its recommendation (not now in the *Code*).

11. Spermatophyte *Ballardia* Montrouz. (1860, *Myrtaceae*) had been voted (12 : 5, Taxon 22: 313. 1973) to be confusable with *Balardia* Cambess. (1829, *Caryophyllaceae*). The latter is generally regarded as a synonym of *Spergularia* J. Presl & C. Presl (1819), so that confusion resulting from both names appearing in the same works seems unlikely. However, relying on the General Committee's opinion, *Carpolepis* (J. W. Dawson) J. W. Dawson (Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., Sect. B, Adansonia 6: 466. 1985) was published with *Ballardia* Montrouz., non *Balardia* Cambess., in synonymy, and *Carpolepis* is now on the draft list of Names in Current Use. The General Committee votes (14 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain) that they are confusable. Recommended action: add binding decision in example (confusable).