

ZACHARIAS, O. 1903. Über die jahrzeitliche Variation von *Hyalodaphnia kahlbergensis*. Forsch. aus der Biol. Sta. zu Plön. 10:293.
 QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, Kingston, Canada.

THE GENERIC NAME PHRAGMITES.

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IN recent years there has been so strong a tendency to overthrow the long familiar name *Phragmites* for the reed, in favor of *Trichoon*, that it seems important to point out the claims of the former. The error of taking *Trichoon* Roth¹ (1798) instead of *Phragmites* has arisen through starting the latter name from the publication by Trinius² in 1820. Thus, when *Trichoon* was brought to the front by Rendle³, he took it up because it antedated *Phragmites* Trin. Similarly Schinz & Keller⁴ and Schinz & Thellung⁵, in 1909, retained *Trichoon* as antedating *Phragmites* Trin. But it is important to note that, although in 1899 Rendle dated *Phragmites* from the publication by Trinius in 1820, in 1907 he⁶ again took up *Phragmites* as dating from Adanson⁷ (1763); and, more recently, Hitchcock⁸ has discussed the status of the name, although part of his discussion is unconvincing.

Adanson's publication was characteristically abbreviated: *Phragmites* was included in his 3d Section of the Grasses, in which "Tous ont plusieurs fleurs hermaphrodites, rassemblées en forme d'épi dans un calice commun, qui n'a que 2 bales" (p. 33); and in the "Table" (p. 559) he supplies the following information:

PHRAGMITES. *Diosk.*

Saccaron. *Plin?*

Saccharum. *C. B?*

Arundo. *Scheuz.* 151.

Sucrier. *Gall.*

Cane à sucre. *Gall.*

¹ Roth, *Archiv. Bot.* Roemer, i. pt. 3: 37 (1798).

² Trin. *Fund. Agrost.* 134 (1820).

³ Rendle, *Cat. Afr. Pl. Welw.* ii. pt. 1: 218 (1899).

⁴ Schinz & Keller, *Fl. der Schweiz*, Aufl. 3, i. 646 (1909).

⁵ Schinz & Thellung, *Vierteljahrsschr. Naturf. Ges. Zurich*, lili. Heft iv. 587 (1909).

⁶ Britten & Rendle, *List Brit. Seed-Pl. and Ferns*, 35 (1907).

⁷ Adans. *Fam. Pl.* ii. 34, 559 (1763).

⁸ Hitchc. *Genera Grasses U. S.—U. S. Dept. Agric. Bull.* no. 772: 64 (1920).

From this it should be clear that Adanson supposed his genus to have started with Dioscorides, the identity of whose plant the present writer does not attempt to make out, that he thought it might be *Saccaron* of Pliny and *Saccharum* of Gaspard Bauhin, though of these identities he was in doubt; that *Phragmites* was based actually upon *Arundo* of Scheuchzer's *Agrostographia*, 161 (1719) and that the colloquial French names¹ (of *Saccaron* and *Saccharum*, only doubtfully referred by Adanson to his *Phragmites*) are *Sucrier* and *Cane à sucre*. That *Arundo vulgaris*, sive *phragmites Dioscoridis* of Scheuchzer was the common reed, *Arundo phragmites* L. Sp. Pl. i. 81 (1753) is clear, not only from Scheuchzer's diagnostic "Folliculis quinis aut senis, in calyce² biglumi" and his characteristic figure (t. 3, fig. 14D) but since it was made the basis of the name *Arundo phragmites* by Linnaeus. The familiar name *Phragmites* Adans. (1763) is thus, fortunately, to be retained instead of *Trichoon* Roth (1798).

GRAY HERBARIUM.

¹ It is almost inconceivable that Hitchcock should have stated, that "Adanson cites besides [*Arundo* Scheuz.] four other pre-Linnaean references, two of them queried. The other two [*Sucrier* and *Cane à sucre*] . . . are to be excluded because the few generic characters given, especially that the spikelets have several perfect flowers, do not at all apply to them, but do apply to *Arundo phragmites*." Where were the "other two pre-Linnaean" generic names, *Sucrier* and *Cane à sucre*, published in such a definite way as to justify the assertion of a nomenclatorial specialist, that Adanson's "few generic characters given . . . do not at all apply to them"? These, of course, were used by Adanson merely as the colloquial French names just as, in the same column, he gave the French *Frêne* for *Fraxinus* and *Fraisier* for *Fragaria*.

² In the original "calylyce" by obvious misprint.

The date of the February issue (unpublished as this goes to press) will be announced later.



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