

# CALYCANTHUS FLORIDUS (CALYCANTHACEAE)— A NOMENCLATURAL NOTE

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IN HIS REVISIONARY STUDY of the Calycanthaceae, Nicely (1965) recognized a single eastern North American species of *Calycanthus*, which comprises two varieties, *C. floridus* L. var. *floridus* and *C. floridus* var. *laevigatus* (Willd.) Torrey & Gray. This treatment has been either adopted independently or followed by Radford, Ahles, and Bell (1964, 1965, 1968) and Strausbaugh and Core (1978), and subsequently by most, if not all, collectors in the southeastern United States. Although Nicely's treatment may oversimplify the variation patterns present in *Calycanthus* in the eastern United States (cf. Wood, 1958), we are not prepared at this time to refute his taxonomic scheme. However, we should like to draw attention to the fact that *laevigatus* is not the earliest varietal epithet available<sup>1</sup> when Nicely's treatment of *C. floridus* is followed.

Torrey and Gray (1840) were the first to use *laevigatus* as a varietal epithet under *Calycanthus floridus* when they reduced *C. laevigatus* Willd., *C. glaucus* Willd., and *C. inodorus* Ell. to varietal standing. Since Nicely's circumscription of plants of *C. floridus* with glabrous lower leaf surfaces includes both glaucous and nonglaucous forms, it appears that his choice of *laevigatus* (rather than *glaucus* or *inodorus*) as the varietal epithet was based on a desire to use an all-inclusive, descriptive epithet.

Nuttall (1818), however, recognized four taxa of *Calycanthus* in eastern North America—three species (*C. floridus*, *C. glaucus*, and *C. laevigatus*) and one variety (*C. glaucus* var. *oblongifolius* Nutt.). Since Nicely considered *C. glaucus* var. *glaucus*, *C. glaucus* var. *oblongifolius*, *C. floridus* var. *glaucus*, and *C. floridus* var. *laevigatus* (as well as *C. floridus* var. *inodorus*) to be synonyms that apply to the same taxon, Nuttall's epithet *oblongifolius* must be considered when determining the correct name of the variety of *C. floridus*. *Oblongifolius* (1818) predates Torrey and Gray's usage of *glaucus*, *inodorus*, and *laevigatus* (all 1840) as varietal epithets by 22 years and therefore has priority as the earliest available varietal epithet for plants of *C. floridus* with glabrous leaf undersurfaces as circumscribed by Nicely. For this reason the following new combination is necessitated.

***Calycanthus floridus* L. var. *oblongifolius* (Nutt.) D. E. Boufford & S. A. Spongberg, comb. nov.**

<sup>1</sup>Article 60 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Regnum Vegetabile 97: 51. 1978) states that "when the rank of a genus or infrageneric taxon is changed, the correct name or epithet is the earliest legitimate one available in the new rank. In no case does a name or epithet have priority outside its own rank."

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