

ANNOUNCING A TEST AND TRIAL PHASE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF NEW PLANT NAMES (1998-1999)

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(A comment from the editors—The following article describes a new protocol involving *Carnivorous Plant Newsletter* and the scientific naming of new plants. Readers of the Newsletter need only know that all new botanical plant names are automatically registered with the appropriate agencies.)

Introduction

Subject to ratification by the XVI International Botanical Congress (St Louis, 1999) of a rule already included in the International code of botanical nomenclature (Art. 32.1-2 of the Tokyo Code), new names of plants will have to be registered in order to be validly published after the 1st of January 2000. To demonstrate feasibility of a registration system, the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) undertakes a trial of registration, on a non-mandatory basis, for a two-year period starting 1 January 1998. The co-ordinating centre will be the secretariat of IAPT, currently at the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Germany. Co-ordination with present indexing centres for major groups of plants is being sought, in view of their possible active involvement at the implementation stage.

Registration Procedure

The co-ordinating registration centre (IAPT Secretariat), and any associated centre operating under its auspices, will register and make available all names of new taxa, all substitute names, new combinations or rank transfers that are brought to their attention by being published in an accredited journal or serial. For a journal or serial to be accredited, its publishers must commit themselves, by a signed agreement with the IAPT, to point out any nomenclatural novelties in each individual issue of their journal or serial, either by including a separate index of novelties or in another suitable, previously agreed way and to submit each individual issue, as soon as published and by the most rapid way, to a pre-defined registration office or centre. Accredited journals and serials will be entitled, and even encouraged, to mention that accreditation on their cover, title page or in their impressum. A permanently updated list of accredited journals and serials is being placed on the World Wide Web. This list will be published annually in the journal *Taxon*.

Authors of botanical nomenclatural novelties that do not appear in an accredited journal or serial are strongly encouraged to submit their names for registration—and will be required to do so once registration becomes mandatory by listing all names to be registered on an appropriate form (using a separate form for each separate publication). Details and forms are posted on the WWW (<http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/iapt/registration/>) or can be obtained from the IAPT secretariat (Königin-Luise-Str. 6-8, D-14191 Berlin, Germany).

Registration Date

The date of registration, as here defined, will be the date of receipt of the registration submission at any national registration office or appropriate registration centre. For accredited journals or serials it will be the date of receipt of the publication at the location of the registration centre (or national office, if so agreed).

For the duration of the trial phase, i.e. as long as registration is non-mandatory, the date of a name will, just as before, be the date of effective publication of the printed matter in which it is validated, irrespective of the date of registration. Nevertheless, the registration date will be recorded, for the following reasons:

- 1) To make clear that the name was published on or before that date, in cases when the date of effective publication is not specified in the printed matter;
- 2) To assess the time difference between the (effective or stated) date of the printed matter and that of registration, since it is envisaged that the date of registration be accepted as the date of names published on or after 1 January 2000.

It is therefore in the interest of every author to submit nomenclatural novelties for registration without any delay, and by the most rapid means available. (Nomenclatural novelties published in Carnivorous Plant Newsletter will be sent automatically to the registration centre directly by Carnivorous Plant Newsletter, so the authors do not need to register their novelties themselves—JS)

Access To Registration Data

Information on registered names will be made publicly available as soon as feasible, (a) by placing it on the World Wide Web without delay in a searchable database, (b) by publishing non-cumulative lists biannually, and (c), hopefully, by issuing cumulative updates on a CD-ROM-type, fully searchable data medium at similar intervals.

Testing The System

To make the test effective and significant, it is important that everyone publishing nomenclatural novelties on or after 1 January 1998 should participate by registering all new names and combinations on a voluntary basis. Please help (a) by doing so yourself and (b) by spreading the message to others!

Do not be put off if shortcomings or errors occur in the initial months. Remember, this is a test phase. Let us know of any bug or crinkle in the system, and we will iron it out. What matters is that everything operates smoothly by the end of 1999, and that by the next Congress all have satisfied themselves that it will.

We believe that registration of new names, once implemented in a functional way, will be a great benefit for all concerned with but little inconvenience for cost—and so felt the Nomenclature Section at Yokohama in 1993. Nomenclature must be fit for a good start into the next millennium. Let us work together to make it happen.

(Carnivorous Plant Newsletter is a journal accredited for registration of nomenclatural novelties in the sense of this announcement. This affects all names of new taxa and new combinations published in Carnivorous Plant Newsletter according to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). Names of new cultivated carnivorous plants published in Carnivorous Plant Newsletter according to the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) are not affected. These are registered directly by the ICPS, which is the forthcoming International Registration Authority (IRA) for carnivorous plants.—JS)



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