

A history, mainly nomenclatural, of St Dabeoc's Heath

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ABSTRACT

St Dabeoc's heath was first gathered in Cantabria (northern Spain) by J. P. de Tournefort before 1694, and subsequently during 1700 by Edward Lhuys in western Ireland. The convoluted history of the Latin names, both pre- and post-Linnaean, for St Dabeoc's heath is reviewed. Linnaeus was the first to employ, but not validly publish, a binomial (*Erica cantabrica*) in the second edition (1759) of his *Flora Anglica*. William Hudson adopted the same specific epithet, but placed St Dabeoc's heath in *Vaccinium*; Hudson's binomial *V. cantabricum* was validly published and is the basionym for the current name, *Daboecia cantabrica* (Huds.) K. Koch. The orthography of the generic name, first printed but not validly published by Martyn in 1807, has been a contentious matter for over a century but as nomenclatural stability is desirable, the "corrupt" spelling prevails. The species name is typified, the lectotype being the illustration published by Petiver in 1704.

KEYWORDS: *Daboecia cantabrica*, Ericaceae, Linnaeus, typification.

INTRODUCTION

St Dabeoc's heath is familiar to Irish, French, Spanish and Portuguese field-botanists, and to gardeners in many other places. It belongs to a distinctive genus of the Ericaceae named *Daboecia*, and that name is derived ("corruptly" to quote Smith 1791) from the vernacular Irish name for this elegant shrub.

St Dabeoc's heath, *Daboecia cantabrica* (Huds.) K. Koch, inhabits the milder, oceanic regions of western Ireland (counties Galway and Mayo; see Webb & Scannell 1983), western and south-western France, northern Spain (Pyrenees to Galicia) and north-western Portugal (see maps in Woodell 1958; Dupont 1962; Small & Small 1998). There is an isolated population on the Azores, and this is treated either as a discrete species, *D. azorica* Tutin & E. F. Warb. (Tutin & Warburg 1932; Sealy 1949; McClintock 1969), or as a geographically isolated subspecies of St Dabeoc's heath, *D. cantabrica* subsp. *azorica* (Tutin & E. F. Warb.) D. C. McClint. (McClintock 1989).

The purpose of this paper is to describe the discovery and to elucidate the nomenclatural history of *Daboecia*. During the three centuries which have passed since it was first brought to the attention of botanists, St Dabeoc's heath has been assigned to various genera – *Erica* by Linnaeus (1754), and all his predecessors back to Tournefort (1694), and by such of his successors as Thunberg (1785); *Vaccinium* only by Hudson (1762); *Andromeda* by Linnaeus (1767, 1770), and by Martyn (1807) who was the first author to list the generic name *Daboecia*; *Boretta* by Necker (1791) and some subsequent authors; *Menziesia* by Salisbury (1781), Jussieu (1802) and de Candolle (1805); *Bryanthus* only by Merino (1906); and *Daboecia* (or *Dabeocia*) by Don (1834), Koch (1872) and most subsequent authorities.

As just indicated, there is a second matter of disagreement. The orthography of the generic name is open to dispute (see below). Martyn (1807) and Don (1834) used *Daboecia*, whereas *Dabeocia* was the arguably correct orthography (e.g. Babington 1888; Praeger 1925) adopted by Koch (1872) and most authors until the early 1950s (e.g. Moore & More 1866; Colgan & Scully 1898; Webb 1943; Gilbert-Carter 1950; Nelson 1984).

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DISCOVERY IN CANTABRIA AND IRELAND

The first mention of a heather from Cantabria (northern Spain) with large flowers and myrtle-like leaves that were white underneath,¹ referable to *Erica* even in pre-Linnaean times, appeared in Joseph Pitton de Tournefort's *Elemens de botanique* (1694: 475). The source of Tournefort's information is not exactly recorded; perhaps he gathered specimens during his exploration of the Pyrenees in 1681, but this is unlikely given his use of the geographical epithet *cantabrica*. Tournefort distributed specimens of his Cantabrian heath to fellow botanists including William Sherard (see below) although no specimen of the heather collected by Tournefort can now be identified in the Sherardian Herbarium (OXF; S. Marner pers. comm. 1995).

In the spring and summer of 1700, the Welsh naturalist Edward Lhuyd (1660–1709; *olim* Llwyd or Lhwyd) travelled to western Ireland where he collected several hitherto unknown plants including a heath with large purple flowers (Gunther 1945; Mitchell 1975; Nelson & Walsh 1995). Lhuyd brought specimens to Britain and distributed duplicates to several botanical friends including the Revd John Ray, James Petiver and William Sherard. In correspondence written during the summer of 1700, Lhuyd also described the heath (see Mitchell 1975; Nelson 1978). He wrote to Dr Tancred Robinson, among others, about various aspects of Ireland's natural history; this particular letter was published in 1712, three years after Lhuyd's death:

In most of the Mountains of *Galloway* and *Mayo* grows an elegant sort of Heath, bearing large Thyme-leaves, a Spike of fair purple Flowers like some *Campanula*, and viscous Stalks. I know not whether it be any thing related to the *Cisti Ladaniferæ*. [Lhuyd 1712: 525].

To Dr Richard Richardson of North Brierly, near Bradford, Yorkshire, he wrote (see Owen 1922; Dandy 1958):

In the moors of ye County of *Mayô* & *Galloway* grows a very elegant sort of Heath which so common that ye people have given it ye name of *Frÿch Dabeôg* i. *Erica* [Sti.] *Dabeoci* & sometimes ye women carry sprigs of it about them as a Preservative against Incontinency. I calld it *Erica maxima viscosa, rubra*; *Rosmarini foliis brevioribus flosculis Campanula minoris*

That same year, 1700, Tournefort, Professor of Botany in the Royal Garden in Paris, published *Institutiones rei herbariæ*, essentially a Latin edition of *Elemens de botanique*, repeating the phrase² that he had first used in 1694 – he did not provide any new information about his knowledge of this plant (Tournefort 1700: 603).

Meanwhile, Lhuyd's specimens provided English authors with material for their publications. The first to notice it was John Ray in *Historia plantarum* (1704: III, Book XXX: 98).³ The particular volume was issued in the summer of 1704 – on 8 June 1704 Ray told Sir Hans Sloane that the third volume “of my History of Plants is now finished at the press” (quoted by Raven 1950: 300). There is a further reference⁴ to the Irish heath within a section comprising lists of plants that Ray had received from Petiver (Ray 1704: III, Appendix, 244). The most remarkable thing about Ray's contribution is that he correctly equated Tournefort's Cantabrian heather with Lhuyd's Irish one. Was this accurate identification just luck?

That question is answered by a letter to Lhuyd from William Sherard written on 29 May 1701 from “Badmington” (Ms Ash. 1817a, original in Bodleian Library, Oxford; Gunther 1945). Sherard told Lhuyd:

As to ye curious plants you have innrich'd me wth I can say little, however shall venture to make some conjectures or queries abt them, since ye are pleas'd to comand it of me. I find (as Mr. Ray complains to me abt my own) 'tis hard to judg of plants by dry'd specimens, especially where they are not perfect & well preserv'd, wch is not always practicable, especially in travelling.

In the accompanying list, which clearly included Lhuyd's Irish specimens, number 4 was glossed “I had this (or some very so like it, wch upon comparing ye specimens I shall easily judg) from Dr. Tournefort, by ye name of, *Erica Cantabrica*, fl. max. fol. myrti subtus incanis. Inst. r. herb.” In other words, it was Sherard who identified Lhuyd's gathering of St Dabeoc's heath and equated it

with Tournefort's specimen. Lhuys then seems to have labelled his specimens with Tournefort's name, including whatever material went to Ray, although from a letter written by Ray, dated 11 June 1701 (Gunther 1928: 280–281), it is evident that Lhuys also used the name *Erica S. Dabeoci*: "The plant you intitle *Erica S. Dabeoci*", responded Ray, "I am in some doubt whether it be a genuine species of *Erica*, the flower falls away, & ye fruit seeming to be different."

Shortly after Ray's *Historia plantarum* was published in the summer of 1704, if we may judge correctly from his own phrasing, Petiver published an engraving (Fig. 1, p. 53) of *Erica HIBERNICA ... S. Dabeoci* in the third decade of his part-work *Gazophylacium naturæ & artis* (Petiver 1704: plate 27), a work described as a medley of text and illustrations depicting plants, shells, insects, birds and other animals. The unambiguous reference to Ray's *Historia plantarum* in the accompanying text⁵ indicates that the third decade in which the description and illustration of St Dabeoc's heath were issued was published late in 1704.

Jacob Dillenius, editor of the third edition of Ray's *Synopsis stirpium Britannicarum*, included St Dabeoc's heath as the sixth member of his genus *Erica*, employing the long, elegantly descriptive phrase-name *Erica Cantabrica flore maximo, foliis Myrti subtus incanis* of Tournefort, and repeating the information first published by Ray (1704; Dillenius 1724). Caleb Threlkeld (1726) listed this western heather as *Erica Cantabrica flore maximo, foliis Myrti subtus incanis. Erica Sancti Dabeoci*, the name by which it was known to botanists throughout the early 18th century. The only other Irish Flora published before 1753, *Botanologia universalis Hiberniæ* by John Keogh (1735), did not include any account of St Dabeoc's heath.

LINNAEUS AND ST DABEOC'S HEATH

The pre-Linnaean history (prior to 1753 when Linnaeus' *Species plantarum* was published) of St Dabeoc's heath is uncomplicated and of little significance as far as, for example, the nomenclature of the species are concerned. However, the post-1753 history is more complicated.

Linnaeus was well informed about the botanical works of earlier decades, as is clearly shown by any page of his own publications. Thus it is not surprising that St Dabeoc's heath should be included in Linnaeus' works from an early period. While inexplicably there is no entry for this Hiberno-Cantabrian species in the first edition of *Species plantarum* (Linnaeus 1753), which is the bench-mark for all modern botanical nomenclature, when Linnaeus turned his attention to the flora of Britain and Ireland, he became aware of *Erica S. Dabeoci Hibernica*. Linnaeus' chosen names for St Dabeoc's heath are listed in Table 1.

Erica daboeci of *Flora Anglica* 1754

In *Flora Anglica*, a work that is essentially a concordance providing Linnaean binomials for plants described in Dillenius' edition of Ray's *Synopsis stirpium Britannicarum* (1724), and which appeared in the guise of a thesis defended by Isaac Olaus Gruffberg dated 3 April 1754, the final entry, under "*Dubia*", is for "471 *Erica* 6 *daboeci*". The numerals refer respectively to the page and the paragraph number in Dillenius (1724) – in fact Linnaeus should have used either 470 because that is the page on which the first *Erica* appeared, or 472 because Dillenius' entry for St Dabeoc's heath is on that page. That combination of Latin words *Erica* and *daboeci* was original – neither Dillenius nor Petiver, the two authorities cited by Linnaeus, nor any previous author had used that particular set of words. Did Linnaeus intend this as the binomial for the heather? Why did he list it among the doubtful ("*Dubia*")? And, why did he spell it *daboeci*? The answer to the latter question is perhaps linked with the many typographical errors which occurred in *Flora Anglica* (cf. Stearn 1973: 44; see also Sealy 1959). The first two questions are discussed below.

Stearn (1973) discussed the significance of the specific names in Linnaeus' *Flora Anglica*, stating that:

Although the nomenclature of Linnaeus's *Flora Anglica* (1754) follows closely that of his *Species Plantarum* (1753) it contains a number of specific names not included in that earlier work, and these must be regarded as new names validly published by reference to the previously published descriptive information given in the cited entries of Ray's *Synopsis*, third edition (1724).

TABLE 1. NAMES PUBLISHED BY LINNAEUS AND HIS CONTEMPORARY WILLIAM HUDSON FOR ST DABEOC'S HEATH: THE RIGHT-HAND COLUMN GIVES THE MOSTLY PRE-LINNAEAN SOURCES EXPLICITLY CITED IN EACH PUBLICATION

Linnaeus, <i>Flora Anglica</i> (April 1754: 29)	
Erica 6 daboeici	[Dillenius: <i>Synopsis methodica stirpium Britannicarum</i>] 471 [recte 472].6 Petiver: <i>Gazophylacii</i> ... t. 27. f. 4
Linnaeus, <i>Flora Anglica</i> , in <i>Amoenitates academicae</i> ... IV: 92, 111 (November 1759)	
<i>Erica cantabrica</i>	[Dillenius: <i>Synopsis methodica stirpium Britannicarum</i>] 471 [recte 472].6 Ray: <i>Dendrologia</i> ... 98 Petiver: <i>Gazophylacii</i> ... t. 27. f. 4
Hudson, <i>Flora Anglica</i> (January–June 1762: 143)	
<i>Vaccinium cantabricum</i>	Tournefort: [<i>Institutiones rei herbariae</i>] 603 Ray [i.e. Dillenius: <i>Synopsis methodica stirpium Britannicarum</i>] 472 Ray: <i>Historia</i> III <i>Dendrologia</i> ... 98 Ray: <i>Historia</i> III Appendix ... 244 Petiver: <i>Gazophylacii</i> ... t. 27. f. 4
Linnaeus, <i>Species plantarum</i> ... editio secunda (September 1762: I, 509)	
<i>Erica daboeicii</i>	Tournefort: [<i>Institutiones rei herbariae</i>] 603 Ray: <i>Historia</i> III <i>Dendrologia</i> ... 98 Petiver: <i>Gazophylacii</i> ... t. 27. f. 4 <i>Vaccinium cantabricum</i> Hudson: <i>Flora Anglica</i> 143
Linnaeus, <i>Systema naturæ</i> ... editio duodecima (1767: II, 300)	
<i>Andromeda dabœcia</i>	<i>Erica daboeicii</i> [Linnaeus]: <i>Species plantarum</i> 509
Hudson, <i>Flora Anglica</i> ... edition altera (1778: I: 166–167)	
<i>Erica daboeicii</i>	Linnaeus, <i>Species plantarum</i> [ed. 2] 509

Stearn cited examples of, for example, suppression of names by Linnaeus between the first edition of *Flora Anglica* and the second edition published in *Amoenitates academicae* (1759), but he does not comment on the entry for St Dabeoc's heath.

How does the entry for "Erica 6 daboeici" stand with regard to the *International code of botanical nomenclature* (Tokyo 1993) (hereinafter the *ICBN* (1993))? Does it fall within Art. 26.6 whereby certain "designations are not to be regarded as specific names", including Art. 26.6 b, such unspecified "other designations of species consisting of a generic name followed by one or more words not intended as specific epithets." The final section of *Flora Anglica* headed "*Dubia*" is not laid out like the previous portion of the fifth section, and most entries in it contain more than one word (a descriptive phrase) which clearly were not intended to be *nomina trivialia*. Moreover the generic name and the one-word (in this case) phrase are separated by the numeral indicating the paragraph number in *Synopsis*. Given the use of phrases, and given that the typography is different, there does appear to be cause to reject this designation because it was "not intended as [a] specific epithet."

It is also possible to argue that because Linnaeus did not adopt binomials in the section headed "*Dubia*", he did not accept any of the apparent binomials as *nomina trivialia*, and thus that they are not validly published under Art 34.1 (a): "A name is not validly published (a) when it is not accepted by the author in the original publication ...".⁶

Thus the first edition of Linnaeus' *Flora Anglica* (1754) must be discounted as a source of a binomial for St Dabeoc's heath.

Erica cantabrica of *Flora Anglica* 1759.

Linnaeus' next publication of relevance is the second (1759) edition of *Flora Anglica*, in which he used a different name, *Erica cantabrica*, and cited an additional reference, Ray's *Dendrologia*. In this edition of *Flora Anglica*, *Erica cantabrica* is printed twice, once as an undoubtedly deliberate binomial within Linnaeus' commentary on Ireland (Linnaeus 1759: 92) and later within the section headed "*Obscure*" in the form "471. Erica 6. cantabrica" (Linnaeus 1759: 111). Linnaeus' reasons for changing the entry from "471 Erica 6 daboeeci" are not known. What is clear, however, is that even in 1759 Linnaeus had not seen any specimens of this plant, only the crude figure in Petiver's *Gazophylacii naturæ*.

There can be no doubt that Linnaeus did intend *Erica cantabrica* to be a binomial (*nomen triviale*) because he used it deliberately on p. 92, but he was not consistent, and he did not list it with the names of four other species of *Erica* on p. 100. Was this binomial validly published in the second edition of *Flora Anglica*? Although the case is different, because of the prior use of *Erica cantabrica* on p. 92, under Art. 26.6 of the ICBN (1993) (see above) it has to be argued that this name also is not validly published.

Erica daboeicii of *Species plantarum* 1762.

It is noteworthy that Linnaeus reverted to *Erica daboeicii* in the second edition of *Species plantarum* (1762), citing William Hudson's name *Vaccinium cantabricum* (see below) as a synonym. Linnaeus stated that he had not seen flowers⁷, but his description suggests that by this time he had been able to examine a fruiting specimen with some leaves; he correctly noted that the capsule was erect and large and had four valves, facts not in previously published descriptions even that by Ray (1704).³

Three years after the publication of the new edition of *Species plantarum*, Linnaeus received a herbarium specimen with flowers from Peter Collinson in September 1765, and in a letter dated 27 December 1765 commented to John Ellis that "*Erica Dabeoci* was sent by Peter Collinson: a fine specimen which much delighted me. It is truly an *Erica*, though so unlike the rest" (see O'Neill & Nelson 1995).

WILLIAM HUDSON AND ST DABEOC'S HEATH

The Latin binomial for St Dabeoc's heath, *Daboecia cantabrica*, has as its basionym *Vaccinium cantabricum* published by William Hudson F. R. S., a London apothecary and one-time Assistant Librarian in the British Museum, in his *Flora Anglica* (Hudson 1762), the work which firmly established "Linnæan principles of botany in England, and their application to practical use" (Smith 1824).

Hudson was planning to compile a British Flora as early as the Summer of 1760. On 3 July 1760 he wrote to Linnaeus (Ms in Linnaeus' correspondence; Linnean Society of London):

I have taken the liberty to send you thro the hands of my worthy friend Mr John Ellis some few of the Plants which are mentioned at the end of your *Flora Anglica* together with some others. I should have sent you some others but Mr. Ellis informed me that the ship was to sail in two or three Days, and that he should put up his things the next morning, which hinderd mee from looking out of my collection any more at present, but hope to send as many more before the end of the summer and if there are any plants which are mentioned In R[ay's] Syn[opsis] which your are in want of if you will honour mee with a list off them, I will do all that laies in my power to procure them for you. I should esteem it as a peculiar Favour if you will be so kind as to honour me with your opinnion concerning the plants but more Especially the grasses which have plagued me much. I should not have thought of giving you so much trouble had I not had some intentions of Publishing a flora Britanica and not having been able to meet with that information which I wanted here. I hope I shall soon have the honour of hearing you have rec[eive]d the plants safe.

"... some few of the Plants which are mentioned at the end of your *Flora Anglica*" would include St Dabeoc's heath, which was in fact last of all, but we can be fairly certain Hudson did not send a specimen to Linnaeus as none from Hudson is in Linnaeus' herbarium (LINN).

In his *Flora Anglica* Hudson removed St Dabeoc's heath from *Erica* and placed it in the genus *Vaccinium*, but why? What was his actual role in the description and naming of St Dabeoc's heath? Did he examine specimens of the heather, study the species in details and then write a fresh, original description and, finally, devise a Latin name for the plant without ever referring to Linnaeus' earlier *Flora Anglica*? Or did he merely take up a copy of Linnaeus' *Flora Anglica* and rework the text and the name to suit his own *Flora*? Hudson undoubtedly owned, or had direct access to, a copy of the second edition of Linnaeus' *Flora Anglica*. Within the bibliography of his own *Flora Anglica* (the section of the book headed "*Nomina auctorum explicata*") Hudson (1762) cited *Amoenitates academicae* IV in which the second edition of Linnaeus' *Flora Anglica* was published during November 1759 (Stearn 1973).

Hudson's description of St Dabeoc's heath, like that published a few months later by Linnaeus (1762), is clearly derived from Ray's and is not in any sense original. Hudson added no new facts to the sparse set of words employed by Ray. Thus there is no textual evidence that Hudson had a specimen, alive or pressed, of the heath. I have never seen a herbarium specimen of St Dabeoc's heath bearing his name or annotations – on the other hand, most of Hudson's herbarium was destroyed when his house in Panton Street, London, was gutted in a fire in 1783 (Henrey 1975: II, 110; Kent & Allen 1984; Desmond 1994), and it is quite possible whatever specimens he had were burnt then. If he had no specimen to compare with other species of *Erica* and *Vaccinium*, it is hard to understand why he made the decision to transfer St Dabeoc's heath into *Vaccinium*. I suggest he reasoned that because the illustration published by Petiver (Fig. 1) showed a sprig with broad leaves and large flowers, more like the large-blossomed, broad-leaved *Vaccinium* than the usually small-flowered, needle-leaved heathers (*Erica*), this plant belonged therein, like going with like.

Thus there is no evidence that Hudson made a detailed analysis of the plant. He employed previously published descriptions and the illustration from Petiver (1704) as the basis for his description of *Vaccinium cantabricum*. He also simply took up the epithet *cantabrica* from Tournefort (1694) and the second edition of Linnaeus' *Flora Anglica* (1759) as the specific epithet.

In terms of the current rules of nomenclature, Hudson's name *Vaccinium cantabricum* was the first validly published binomial for St Dabeoc's heath and thus it has priority, but, I would argue, that has happened by default because he omitted to be directly explicit about his sources. In his *Flora Anglica* Hudson (1762) occasionally omitted to cite the original author and source of binomials that he published. A good example, one that is discussed by Stearn (1973: 66), is *Hypericum elodes* which Linnaeus (1759) had published, and there are other instances of Hudson apparently using names from Linnaeus' earlier *Flora Anglica* (1759) without acknowledgement, including *Trifolium ochroleucon* which is in Linnaeus' work. Comparable examples in the publications of Hudson's contemporaries, Philip Miller and John Hill, are *Helianthemum nummularium* and *Primula elatior* respectively (see Brummitt & Meikle 1993).

In the second edition of *Flora Anglica*, Hudson (1778) accepted Linnaeus' name *Erica daboecii*, quoting the second edition of *Species plantarum* as the source (Linnaeus 1762) and so he abandoned *Vaccinium cantabricum* without even mentioning it in synonymy.

A footnote may be added, by quoting an anonymous reviewer referring to Jussieu's paper (1802) in which yet another binomial, *Menziesia polifolia*, a name that held sway for many decades, was published:

We cannot refrain from adding, that had our author [Jussieu] thought fit to have retained the trivial name [i.e. specific epithet] before in use, he would in great measure have avoided the confusion necessarily attendant on the change of appellation, as Dabeoci, already banded from one genus to another, would have been readily recognised under a new generic title. [Anonymous 1806].

DABOECIA AND/OR DABOECIA

The generic name *Daboecia* – based on the name Dabeoc but with the vowels e and o reversed – is conventionally attributed to David Don (1834), but there are several previous works in which it was printed although not validly published, the earliest being in the second part of Thomas Martyn's "corrected and newly arranged" edition of Miller's *The gardener's and botanist's dictionary* (the title page of volume 1 part II is dated 1807; Henrey 1975: III, 91). Martyn included

TAB: XXVII

Fig: 1.

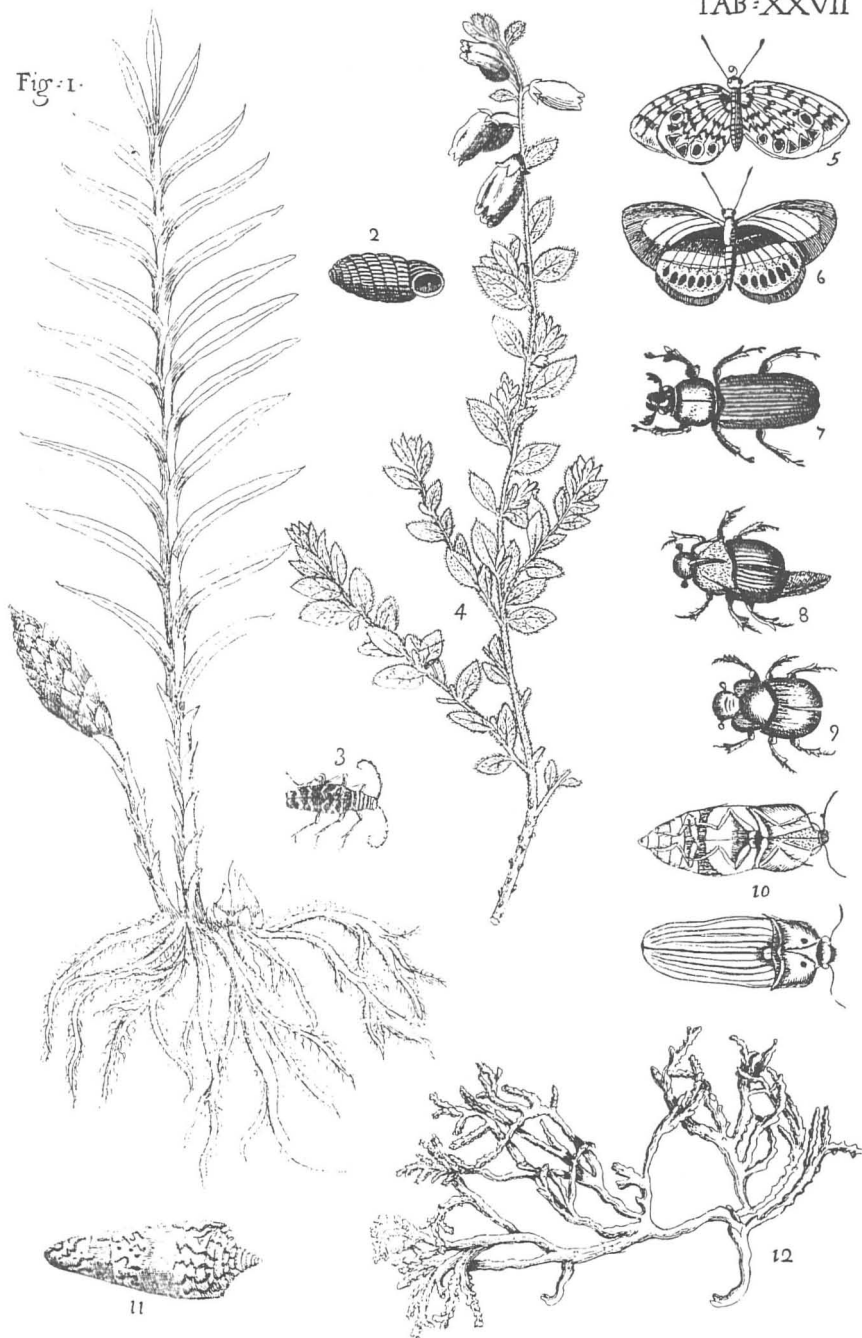


FIGURE 1. St Dabeoc's heath from Petiver's *Gazophylacii naturæ et artis decas tertia* (1704), tab. 27, fig. 4; this is designated (p. 55) as the lectotype of *Daboecia cantabrica* (Huds.) K. Koch.

Daboecia as a generic name at the beginning of D, but simply added “See *Andromeda*” – *Andromeda Daboecia* is the ninth species within *Andromeda*. The implication of Martyn’s edition of *The gardener’s ... dictionary* is that the name *Daboecia* had been coined by 1807, and was sometimes employed by gardeners and botanists as early as the first decade of the 19th century.

Another intriguing example of its use (with the vowels reversed) before Don formally published the generic name is in a letter from Richard Duppa of Lincoln’s Inn to Sir James Edward Smith, President of the Linnean Society, dated 16 July 1827 (Smith 1832, Britten 1916, Nelson 1978). Duppa wrote:

Some where or other, I think, I have met with the assertion that there was but one Heath indigenous to Ireland and that is now removed to the genus *Dabœcia*. My question is, whether, of the four species of English Heath any one is found wild in Ireland. I have got into a dispute on that point & I cannot find my difficulty solved in any book I have on the subject of Botany, & also if our English heaths are *not* found in Ireland whether the bogs of Ireland are composed of the roots of the *Dabœcia*, the *Salix herbacea*, or what? ... And is ye *Dabœcia* which is peculiar to Ireland, never found in any other country, that we are acquainted with?⁸

What was Duppa remembering? Was it Martyn’s edition of Miller’s *The gardener’s and botanist’s dictionary*, a conversation with a fellow botanist (perhaps David Don, as suggested by Britten (1916: 179 fn.)), or a now-lost source? Smith’s reply is not extant, so the mystery remains. But the more extraordinary thing about Duppa’s letter is that it was published, slightly edited, as early as 1832 by Lady Pleasance Smith in her *Memoir and correspondence of the late Sir James Edward Smith* (Smith 1832: 2, p. 125). Thus Duppa’s letter was in the public domain two years before David Don validly published the generic name *Daboecia*. Lady Smith (1832: 2, p. 125) added this footnote to the name *Dabœcia*, echoing her late husband’s opinion (Smith 1791):

Mr. Duppa probably meant *Menziesia*; there is no genus *Dabœcia*. The plant was called *Andromeda Dabœcia* in *Linn. Syst. Veg.* It is named *Dabeoci* after St. Dabeoc, whence the Linnæan trivial name has been corruptly taken.

Given that *Daboecia* was derived, to quote Smith (1791) again, “corruptly” from the personal name Dabeoc (Nelson 1984), should the spelling be corrected to *Dabeocia*? This question has exercised botanists for more than a century. Article 60.7 of the *ICBN* (1993) states that “When changes made in orthography by earlier authors who adopt personal, geographic, or vernacular names in nomenclature are intentional latinizations, they are to be preserved ...” and among examples given is *Gleditsia* L. (1753) which commemorates Gleditsch “... but the name is ... not to be altered to ... “Gleditschia” ... [because] Linnaeus latinized the names of [this botanist] deliberately as ... *Gleditsius* ...”. However the *ICBN* (1993) also states (Art. 60.1) that “The original spelling of a name or epithet is to be retained, except for the correction of typographical or orthographical errors ...”.

Was *Daboecia* an intentional latinization on the part of Martyn (1807) or even Don (1834), or a “typographical or orthographical error”? Clearly those authors based the generic name on the specific epithet taken up by Linnaeus (1754, 1762) from Dillenius’ edition of *Synopsis stirpium Britannicarum* and thus ultimately from Ray’s *Historia plantarum* (1704) (see e.g. Sealy 1949). Yet Dillenius used *dabeoci*, as did his predecessors (see Table 2). We cannot explain why Linnaeus spelled the epithet *daboeci* (Linnaeus 1754, 1762).

Nicholson (1931) suggested that Don “Latinised [the name] to *Dabœcia* for convenience”, while Sealy (1949) argued that Don “knew perfectly well that the saint’s name was Dabeoc, and ... must have chosen to use the spelling *Daboecia* quite deliberately.” On the other hand Babington (1889) stated that he did “not see why *Dabeocia* should be changed into *Daboecia* because Don’s printers made a not unnatural blunder, and [Don] did not discover it when correcting the press.” Jackson (1889) protested, and argued that Don “clearly meant the name to stand as he wrote it”, *Daboecia*. That was not Praeger’s opinion (1925): “... when David Don in 1834 placed the plant in a separate genus, he followed the Linnæan spelling, and called the genus *Dabœcia* instead of *Dabeocia*, being no doubt unaware of the facts of the case.” Alas, no evidence exists to show conclusively whether Martyn or Don deliberately latinized Dabeoc’s name, or never corrected their printers’ errors.

TABLE 2. THE TWO VARIANTS OF THE GENERIC NAME AND SPECIFIC EPITHET DERIVED FROM DABEOC, AND SOME OF THE AUTHORS WHO HAVE USED THESE VARIANTS; THE LISTS OF AUTHORS ARE NOT EXHAUSTIVE.

Daboecia : daboecii	Daboecia : daboecii
Linnaeus 1754, 1762, 1767	Lhuyd [1700] 1712
Hudson 1778	Ray 1704
Smith 1791	Dillenius 1724
Jussieu 1802	Threlkeld 1726 [as Dabæoci]
Martyn 1807	More & Moore 1866
[Duppa 1827]	Koch 1872
Smith 1832	Babington 1889
Don 1834	Colgan & Scully 1898
Jackson 1889	Chittenden 1931
Webb 1953: 103 [but <i>Daboecia</i> in Index: 242]	Webb [1943: 215]
Woodell 1958	Gilbert-Carter 1950
Webb & Scannell 1983	

There is an irrefutable case for correcting the orthography of this name and reinstating *Daboecia* (with e followed by o). Such an action does not conflict with the *ICBN* (1993). Indeed *Daboecia* was used by the principal Irish botanical authors (Table 2) until the early 1950s (see e.g. Webb 1943, 1953). While I argue that the name should be corrected, just as Linnaeus's orthographic error *Stewartia* has been corrected to *Stuartia* (in that case Linnaeus was misinformed about the surname of the earls of Bute, it being Stuart and not Stewart (see e.g. Stearn 1996)), such a move is unlikely to gain acceptance. Stability in nomenclature is preferable to instability.

In this context it is worth quoting Chittenden's (1931) response to Nicholson (1931): there "can be only one recognised way to spell a name, and we must follow the original, unless to do so would lead to confusion. In neither of the instances given can following the original lead to confusion, so we must write *Daboecia* and *Diervilla* [after Mons Dierville; see Stearn 1996] in spite of the probable mistakes on the part of the originators of the names."

PRONUNCIATION AND TYPIFICATION

Daboecia comes ultimately from an Irish name Dabeoc, and commemorates an obscure saint of the early Irish church (see Nelson 1984). Dabeoc is pronounced as two equal syllables, da-vok. How should *Daboecia* be pronounced? In one sense it is a nonsensical name, and there can be no correct pronunciation. Webb (1943: 215) suggested Dabeō'cia, while dā-bō-ee-kee-a was suggested by Coombes (1985). Bearing in mind the root Dabeoc, dā-vok-ee-a seems most appropriate, and has the merit of being simple.

Finally, there is no record of typification of the name *Daboecia cantabrica*. As noted, no herbarium specimens used by Hudson or Linnaeus in the preparation of their respective floras is known. Both Linnaeus (1754, 1759, 1762) and Hudson (1762, 1778) cited the same figure, tab. 27, fig. 4 from Petiver's *Gazophylacii naturæ et artis decas tertia* (1704). This illustration (Fig. 1) can serve as lectotype; it is the only possible choice.

Daboecia cantabrica (Huds.) K. Koch, *Dendrologie* vol. 2 (pt 1): 132 (1872).

basionym: *Vaccinium cantabricum* Huds., *Flora Anglica*: 143 (1762).

synonym: *Erica daboecii* L., *Species plantarum* 509. ed. 2. (1762); Hudson, *Flora Anglica*: 166. ed. 2. (1778), etc.

Lectotypus hic designatus: icon, tab. 27 fig. 4, in J. Petiver (1704) *Gazophylacii naturæ et artis decas tertia*.

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NOTES

- 1 *Erica Cantabrica flore maximo, foliis Myrti subtus incanis.*
- 2 *Erica Cantabrica, flore maximo, foliis Myrti subtus incanis.*
- 3 30. *Erica S. Dabecii* Hibernica D. Lhwyd. Er. *Cantabrica* flore maximo, foliis Myrti, subtus incanis Tournefort. *Inst. rei Herb.* *Ericæ* species genuina esse videtur quoad floris formam, cum *Erica tenuifolia Unedonii* flore conveniens. Vasculi seminalis forma *Geranium* imitari videtur. Cauliculi autem ubi florere incipiunt non minùs viscosi sunt quàm *Muscipulæ*, In montibus *Mayo* squalido & spongioso solo frequens est, ut & per totum *Hiar-Connacht* in *Gallovidia*. Mulericulæ superstitiosæ surculos ejus secum circumferunt adversus incontinentiam.

- 4 which simply reads 'Erica Hibernica foliis myrti pilosis, subtus incanis'
- 5 4. Erica HIBERNICA fol. Myrti pilosis subtus incanis *Hort. nost. sicc.* 244. E. 20. *Erica S. Dabeoci D. Lhwyd Ray Dend.* V. 3. p. 98. 30. *Erica Cantabrica* Flore maximo, foliis Myrti subtus incanis *Instit. Rei Herb.* 603 5. *Elem. Botan.* 475. I had a specimen of this elegant Plant from my generous Friend Mr Edward Lhwyd, Keeper of the *Museum Ashmoleanum*, who gathered it in *Ireland* in the places Mr Ray mentions.
- 6 Neither of the two editions of Linnaeus' *Flora Anglica* (1754, 1759) is listed in the Appendix V (*Operae utique oppressae*) of the *ICBN* (1993) so names published in them are not liable to be regarded as not validly published under the same *ICBN* (1993, Art. 32.8).
- 7 'Flores non vidi, quos describant autoptæ.' In Linnaeus' own, interleaved copy of this edition (now in the Linnean Society, London), he has written a very detailed description of the flowers and scored out the sentence quoted, as well as the phrase 'Rami breviores.', and inserted in manuscript after 'lanceolata' (referring to the leaves) the additional phrase 's[eu] elliptica'. The manuscript description in this copy was published in *Systema naturae* (Linnaeus 1767) ; the printed text is almost exactly the same.
- 8 Quoted from the original manuscript; Smith correspondence, Linnean Society, London.

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