

Note on the typification and synonymy  
of *Cynorkis coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Schltr.,  
*C. trilinguis* (Frapp.) Schltr.  
and *C. flexuosatis* (Thouars) Hermans  
(Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae, Habenariinae)

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# Note on the typification and synonymy of *Cynorkis coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Schltr., *C. trilinguis* (Frapp.) Schltr. and *C. flexuosatis* (Thouars) Hermans (Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae, Habenariinae)

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## ABSTRACT

### KEY WORDS

Orchidaceae,  
La Réunion,  
Madagascar,  
Mascarenes,  
orchids,  
lectotypification,  
neotypifications,  
new synonyms.

Most species of the genus *Cynorkis* are found on the Western Indian Ocean Islands. The correct taxonomic status of many species in this genus is not clear or is unresolved due to poor or lost type specimens, coupled with short protologue descriptions. Here, we lectotypify *Cynorkis coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Schltr. and show that *C. brachycentra* (A.Rich.) ex. Kraenzl. is a synonym of *C. trilinguis* (Frapp.) Schltr.. Moreover, *C. flexuosatis* (Thouars) Hermans, a Mauritian endemic, and *C. trilinguis*, a Réunion endemic, are different species. These clarifications are important to correct the taxonomic reference for the Mascarene flora, and to support any necessary conservation work.

## RÉSUMÉ

*Note sur la typification et synonymie de Cynorkis coccinelloides (Frapp.) Schltr., C. trilinguis (Frapp.) Schltr. et C. flexuosatis (Thouars) Hermans (Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae, Habenariinae).*

La plupart des espèces du genre *Cynorkis* se trouvent dans les îles de l'océan Indien occidental. Le statut taxonomique correct de nombreuses espèces de ce genre n'est pas clair ou n'est pas résolu, en raison de spécimens types pauvres ou perdus, associés à de courtes descriptions de protologues. Ici, nous lectotypifions *Cynorkis coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Schltr. et montrons que *C. brachycentra* (A.Rich.) ex. Kraenzl. est un synonyme de *C. trilinguis* (Frapp.) Schltr.. De plus, *C. flexuosatis* (Thouars) Hermans, endémique mauricien, et *C. trilinguis*, endémique de la Réunion, sont des espèces différentes. Ces précisions sont importantes pour corriger la référence taxonomique de la flore des Mascareignes et soutenir tout travail de conservation.

### MOTS CLÉS

Orchidaceae,  
La Réunion,  
Madagascar,  
Mascareignes,  
orchidées,  
lectotypification,  
néotypifications,  
synonymes nouveaux.

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Cynorkis* Thouars was created for a species collected in Réunion (Thouars 1809: tabl. *Satyrions*). Nowadays, nearly 190 species are recognised, most of them occurring in Madagascar and the surrounding islands (Mascarenes, Comoros and Seychelles) (Pailler *et al.* 2018; Hassler 2004–2021; Govaerts *et al.* 2021). The taxonomy of this genus is complex, because some species and their variability are not well known, particularly the 31 species from Réunion described by Frappier in Cordemoy (1895). Many of the protologue descriptions were based on living plants seen in the field or on a few herbarium specimens, some of which were already in poor state at the time of their description. Moreover, the herbarium of Frappier (Bosscher 2011), as well as some specimens from the herbarium of Cordemoy are considered lost. Studies undertaken as part of the preparation for the ‘Flore des Mascareignes’ have revealed two new species (Bosscher 2007; Pailler 2020), and taxonomic, as well as nomenclatural, issues for certain taxa have been clarified (e.g. Bytebier 2019 and Bytebier & Pailler 2019 dealt with the identity of *C. citrina* (Thouars) Bytebier, whereas Ngugi *et al.* 2020 showed that *Arnottia* A.Rich. and *Physoceras* Schltr. should undoubtedly be considered as *Cynorkis*). Hermans & Cribb (2021) typified 16 species of *Cynorkis* described by Thouars (1822) and Frappier in Cordemoy (1895), and also proposed 27 new synonyms for taxa of the Mascarenes. Here, we discuss the typification of *Cynorkis coccinelloides*, as well as one of its recently proposed new synonyms, to clarify the correct taxonomic reference for the Mascarene flora.

*Cynorkis coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Schltr., a species endemic to Madagascar and Réunion, was first described as *Camilleugenia coccinelloides* Frapp. Recently, Hermans & Cribb (2021) neotyped *C. coccinelloides* with *Cordemoy* 3 deposited at K, a specimen without indication of its collection locality and gathered two years after publication of the name (Frappier in Cordemoy 1895: 234). Three herbarium specimens from Réunion are cited in the protologue of *Camilleugenia coccinelloides*: 1) Saint Denis, Ravine à Verdure from the J.M.C. Richard Herbarium; 2) Côteau Maigre du Piton des Neiges from the Potier Herbarium; and 3) Plaine des Cafres from the Frappier Herbarium. In 1998, during the preparatory study of orchids for the ‘Flore des Mascareignes’, Jean Bosscher found and identified the specimen of J.M.C. Richard (Fig. 1). Unfortunately, he did not publish it at that time. This specimen is one of the syntypes and is here formally lectotypified. According to article 9.19a of the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants (Turland *et al.* 2018), the lectotypification supersedes the neotypification in Hermans & Cribb (2021).

In addition, Hermans & Cribb (2021) considered *Cynorkis brachycantha* A.Rich. ex Kraenzl. as a synonym of *Cynorkis coccinelloides*. The authors stated that “Kraenzlin [Kraenzlin 1901: 484] described a species with 3-lobed lip but the Boivin type specimen [Boivin 1072, P00693006] has five lobes, two being tiny basal ones. The size and shape of the rachis, flowers, the puberulous lip and spur correspond well with *Cynorkis*

*coccinelloides* that Frappier [in Cordemoy 1895] described three years earlier.” However, due to the fact that *Boivin* 1072 has resupinate flowers whereas *C. coccinelloides* has non-resupinate flowers, *Cynorkis brachycantha* A.Rich. ex Kraenzl. cannot be considered as a synonym of *C. coccinelloides*. Furthermore, when comparing the types of *Cynorkis brachycantha* A.Rich. ex Kraenzl. (*Boivin* 1072, P00693006) and *Cynorkis trilinguis* (Frapp.) Schltr. (*Cordemoy* s.n., P00541671), no clear morphological differences can be found. Hence *C. brachycantha* A.Rich. ex Kraenzl. should be considered as a synonym of *C. trilinguis*.

Finally, Hermans & Cribb (2021) also considered *Cynorkis flexuosatis* (Thouars) Hermans as a synonym of *C. trilinguis*. Hermans & Cribb (2021) have rightly chosen the Thouars’ painting (1822: t. 7) as the lectotype of *C. flexuosatis*, since no original material could be located. However, there are clear differences between the above two species. Firstly, *C. flexuosatis* is a species from Mauritius (the most recent specimen was collected in 1997 [*Florens* *et al.* s.n., MAU22810, Fig. 2]), whereas *C. trilinguis* is endemic to Réunion. Secondly, these species differ by the size and shape of the spur. The cylindrical spur of *C. flexuosatis* is as long as one of the lateral lobes of the labellum, features clearly visible on Thouars’ plate. On the other hand, *C. trilinguis* has a very short spur (< 1 mm), which is saccate and obconical. Thus, these two names are not synonymous.

## TAXONOMY

Family ORCHIDACEAE Juss.  
Genus *Cynorkis* Thouars

*Cynorkis coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Schltr.  
(Figs 1; 3B)

In *Beihefte zum Botanischen Centralblatt* 33 (2): 399 (Schlechter 1915). — *Camilleugenia coccinelloides* Frapp., *Orchidées de l’Île de La Réunion*: 10 (Frappier 1880), *nomen nudum*; Frapp. in *Cordem.*, *Flore de l’Île de la Réunion*: 234 (Cordemoy 1895). — *Bicornella coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Szlach. & Kras, *Richardiana* 6: 141 (Szlachetko & Kras 2006). — Type: France. La Réunion, St-Denis, ravine à Verdure, s.d., J.M.C. Richard s.n. (lecto-, here designated: REU) (Fig. 1).

*Cynorkis trilinguis* (Frapp.) Schltr.  
(Fig. 3A)

In *Beihefte zum Botanischen Centralblatt* 33 (2): 403 (Schlechter 1915). — *Hemiperis trilinguis* Frapp. *Orchidées de l’Île de La Réunion*: 11 (Frappier 1880), *nomen nudum*; Frapp. in *Cordem.*, *Flore de l’Île de La Réunion*: 242 (Cordemoy 1895). — Type: France. La Réunion, îlet de Patience, 1900 m, *Cordemoy* s.n. (P[P00541671]).

*Hemiperis nervilabris* Frapp., *Orchidées de l’Île de La Réunion*: 11 (Frappier 1880), *nomen nudum*; Frapp. in *Cordem.*, *Flore de l’Île de La Réunion*: 250 (Cordemoy 1895). — *Cynorkis nervilabris* (Frapp.) Schltr., *Beihefte zum Botanischen Centralblatt* 33 (2): 401 (Schlechter 1915), *syn. nov.* — Type: France. La Réunion, Bélouve, Côteau Monique, 19.II.1875, *de l’Isle* 71 (neo-, here designated: P[P00693011]).

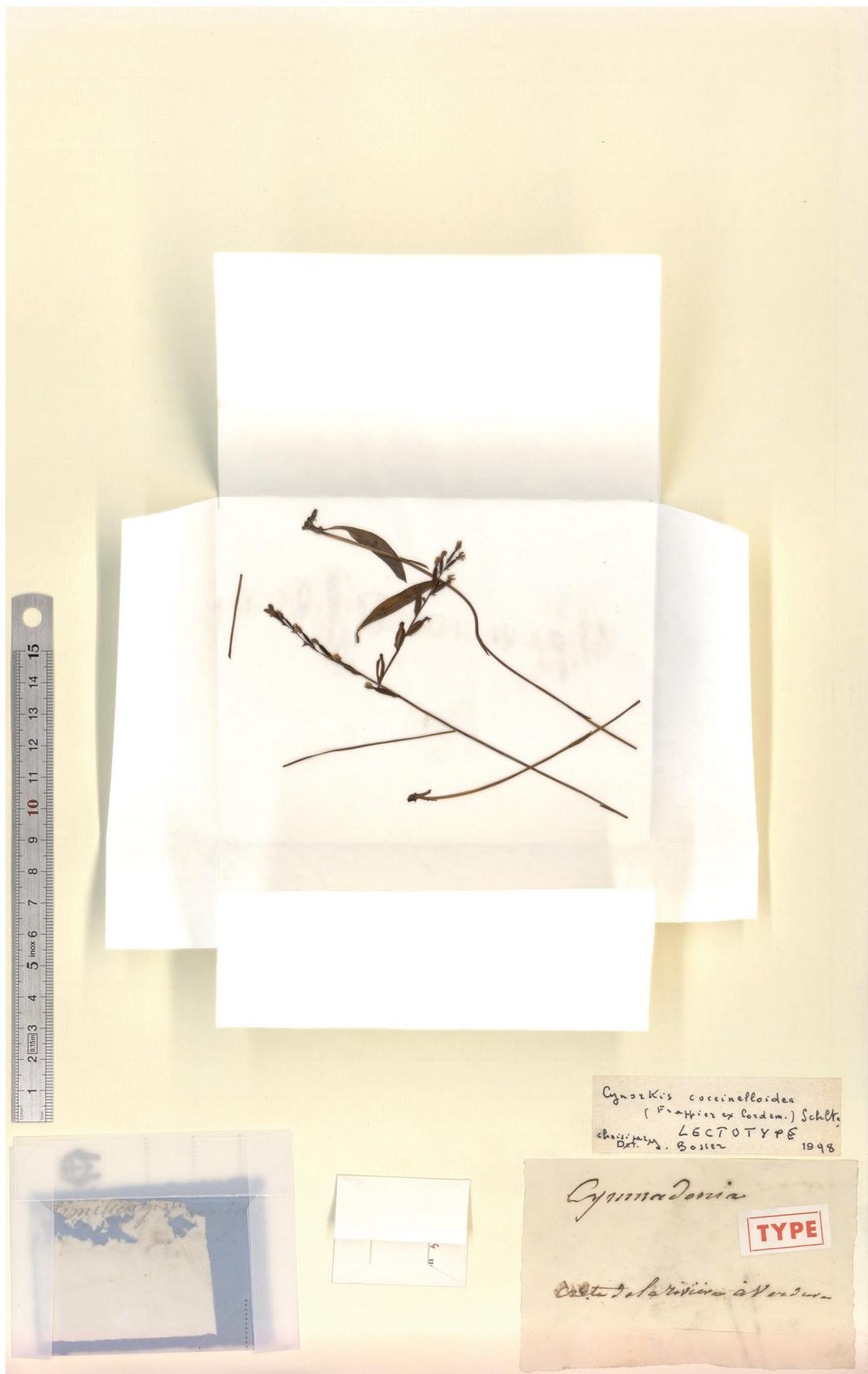


Fig. 1. — *Cynorkis coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Schltr.: lectotype identified by Jean Bosser, housed at REU.

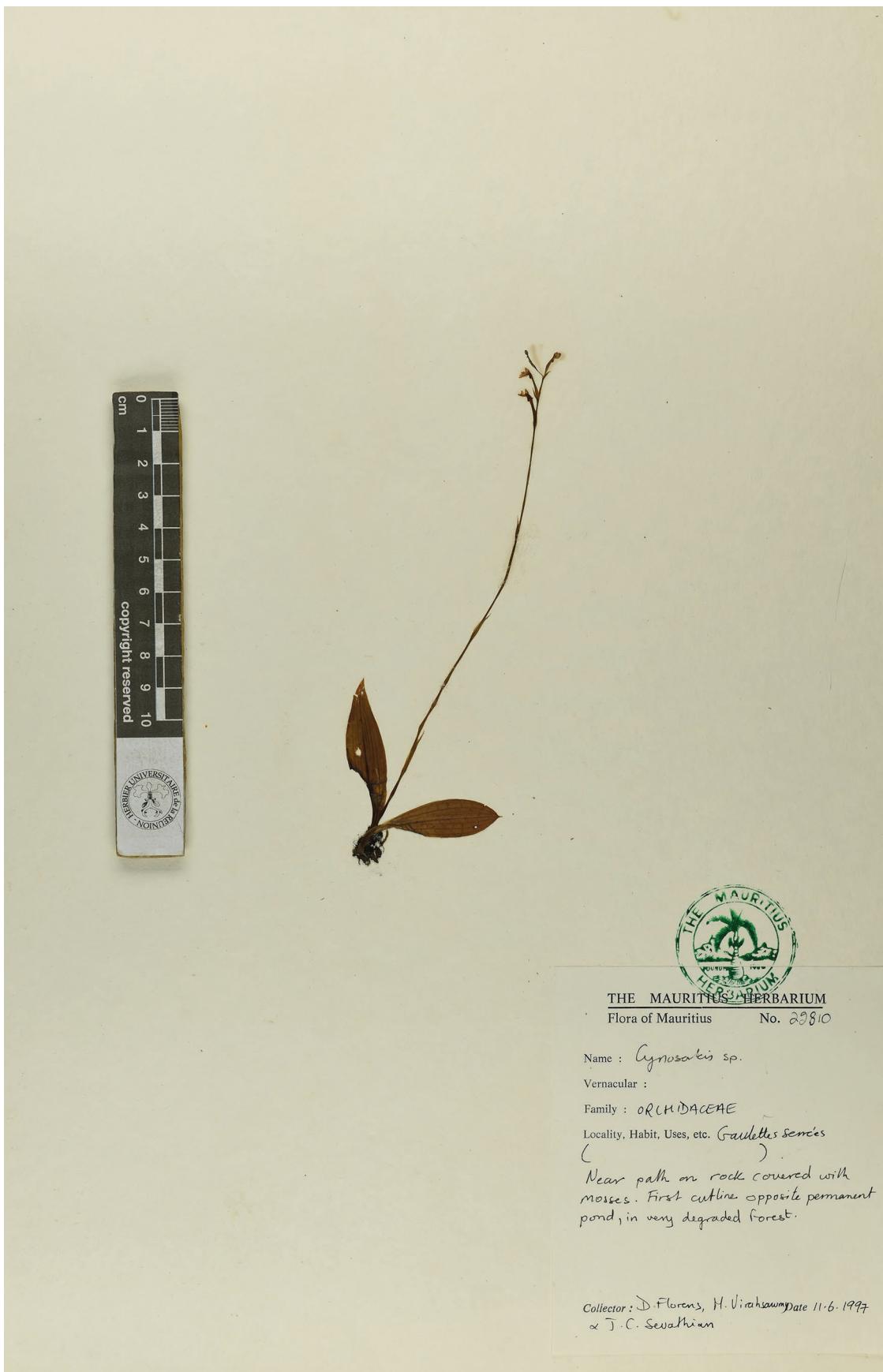


Fig. 2. — *Cynorkis flexuosatis* (Thouars) Hermans: only known specimen (MAU22810).



Fig. 3. — **A**, *Cynorkis trilinguis* (Frapp.) Schltr.; **B**, *Cynorkis coccinelloides* (Frapp.) Schltr. Arrows indicate the labellum. Photos: Frédéric Henze.

*Hemiperis exilis* Frapp., *Orchidées de l'Île de La Réunion*: 11 (Frappier 1880), *nomen nudum*; Frapp. in Cordem., *Flore de l'Île de La Réunion*: 238 (Cordemoy 1895), *syn. nov.* — *Cynorkis exilis* (Frapp.) Schltr., *Beihefte zum Botanischen Centralblatt* 33 (2): 400 (Schlechter 1915), *syn. nov.* — Type: France. La Réunion, Tampon, Pitons Mare à Boue, 1650 m, 1.III.2002, Paillet 36 (neo-, here designated: REU[REU017516]).

*Hemiperis affinis* Frapp., *Orchidées de l'Île de La Réunion*: 11 (Frappier 1880), *nomen nudum*, *syn. nov.*

*Cynorkis brachycentra* A.Rich. ex Kraenzl. [as *Cynosorchis brachycentra*], *Orchidacearum genera et species* 1: 484 (Kraenzlin 1901), *syn. nov.*

#### *Cynorkis flexuosatis* (Thouars) Hermans (Fig. 2)

In *Lankesteriana* 21 (2): 105 (Hermans & Cribb 2021). — *Satorkis flexuosatis* Thouars, *Histoire particulière des plantes orchidées recueillies sur les trois îles Australes d'Afrique*: t. 7 (Thouars 1822). — *Satyrium flexuosum* Thouars, *Histoire particulière des plantes orchidées recueillies sur les trois îles Australes d'Afrique*: t. 7 (Thouars 1822), *nomen illegitimum*. — *Gymnadenia flexuosa* (Thouars) A.Rich., *Mémoires de la Société d'Histoire naturelle de Paris* 4: 25 (Richard 1828). — *Peristylus flexuosus* (Thouars) S.Moore, *Journal of Botany* 5: 293 (Moore 1876). — Type: Mauritius. *Histoire particulière des plantes orchidées recueillies sur les trois îles Australes d'Afrique*: t. 7 (Thouars 1822).

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