International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants and its application in naming of vascular plants

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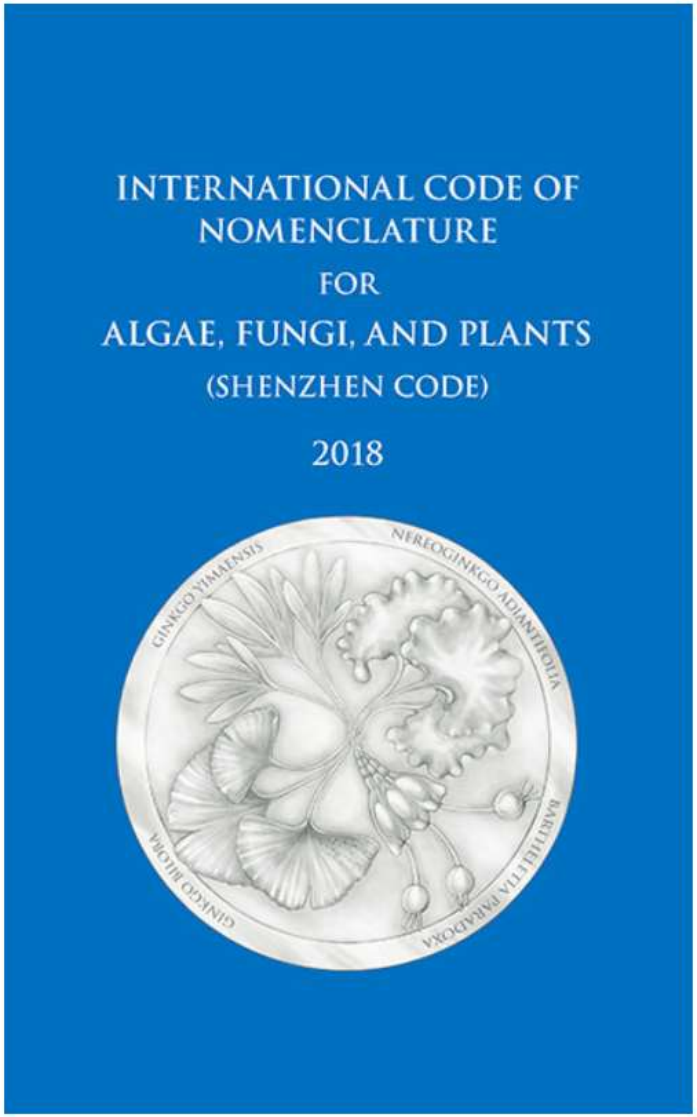
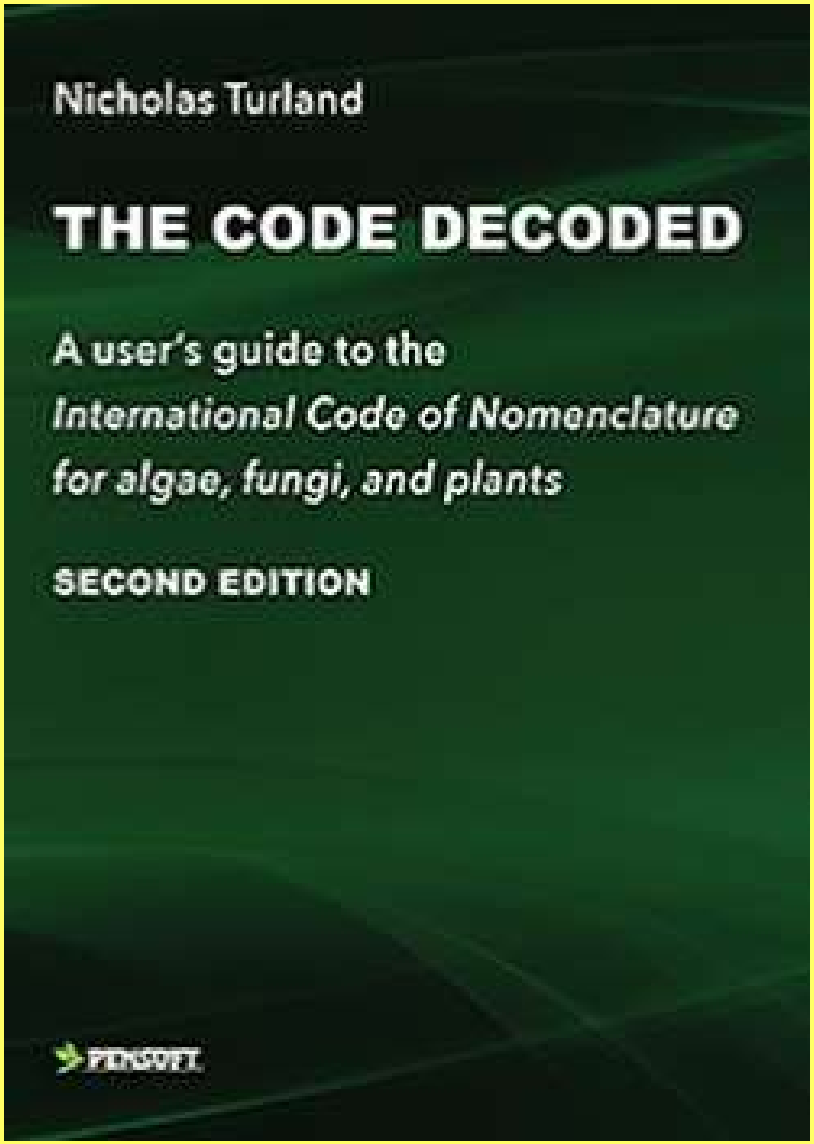


International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants

The *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* is the set of rules and recommendations that govern the scientific naming of all organisms traditionally treated as algae, fungi, or plants, whether fossil or non-fossil, including blue-green algae (*Cyanobacteria*), chytrids, oomycetes, slime moulds, and photosynthetic protists with their taxonomically related non-photosynthetic groups (but excluding *Microsporidia*). Before 2011 it was called the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (ICBN).

http://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main.php



With support from IAPT, a new edition of Nicholas Turland's *The Code Decoded* has just been published by Pensoft Publishers.

The second edition of this user's guide to the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* has been updated to incorporate all the changes made in the Shenzhen *Code* and is freely available online at https://doi.org/10.3897/ab.e38075.

LOIS

DE LA

NOMENCLATURE BOTANIQUE

RÉDIGÉES ET COMMENTÉES PAR

M. ALPH. DE CANDOLLE

Éditeur et en partie auteur du
Prodromus systematis naturalis vegetabilium.

Texte préparé sur la demande du Comité d'organisation du Congrès international de botanique de Paris, du 16 août 1867, pour servir de base aux discussions sur les points controversés en nomenclature.

PARIS

V. MASSON ET FILS, LIBRAIRES

PLACE DE L'ÉCOLE DE MÉDECINE, 17

1867

1867 – Candolle, A.L., de, Lois de la nomenclature botanique

1905 – Wien, Règles internationales de la nomenclature botanique (Vienna Rules)

A HISTORY OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE[1]

Dan H. Nicolson[2]

ABSTRACT

I divide botanical nomenclature into three partly overlapping periods: the schismatic period (1840–1930), the dark ages (1915–1950), and the IAPT renaissance (1950–date). The schisms began with the 1843 British Association for the Advancement of Science approval of zoological rules and became manifest with the 1867 Paris Congress approval of Alphonse de Candolle's botanical "laws." Reunification efforts, such as those by Dall (1877.12), failed. The contemporary rise of "Darwinism" added to the divisiveness. By the late 1800s, various botanical centers had or were evolving modified or different Codes from the Candollean, not to mention fully formed Codes from "outsiders" like Saint-Lager (1880.03?, 1881.04) and Kuntze (1891.10). The 1905 Vienna Congress eliminated all but the Brittonian (American) schism, which continued until the 1930 Cambridge Congress compromises. A nomenclatural "dark age" descended when the 1915 London Congress was cancelled because of a subsequent engagement, World War I. The next congress (Ithaca, 1926) declared itself incompetent due to insufficient international representation. The 1930 Cambridge Congress revised the 1912 Brussels Code but, largely because of the death of Briquet in 1931, its Code appeared only a few months before the 1935 Amsterdam Congress that amended it. Again a World War struck and no official Amsterdam Code was ever produced. The 1950 Stockholm Congress saw the establishment of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy, its journal, *Taxon*, in which all Code amendment proposals now appear, and its serial publication, *Regnum Vegetabile*, in which all subsequent Codes appear at the remorseless six-year pace of the congresses.

ANN. MISSOURI BOT. GARD. 78: 33–56. 1991.

Structure of the Code:

Preambula

Principles

Rules

- Articles

Supplementary and advisory material

- Recommendations
- Notes

Explanatory material

- Examples

From the Preamble

The Principles form the basis of the system of nomenclature governed by this Code.

The detailed provisions are divided into rules, which are set out in the Articles (Art.) (sometimes with clarification in Notes), and Recommendations (Rec.). Examples (Ex.) are added to the rules and recommendations to illustrate them. A Glossary defining terms used in this Code is included.

The object of the rules is to put the nomenclature of the past into order and to provide for that of the future; names contrary to a rule cannot be maintained.

The Recommendations deal with subsidiary points; their object is to achieve greater uniformity and clarity, especially in future nomenclature; names contrary to a Recommendation cannot, on that account, be rejected, but they are not examples to be followed.

Principle I

The nomenclature of algae, fungi, and plants is independent of zoological and prokaryotic nomenclature. This Code applies equally to names of taxonomic groups treated as algae, fungi, or plants, whether or not these groups were originally so treated

International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes *(*formerly the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria)*

The 2008 Revision has been published in the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology (IJSEM)

***Approved Lists of Bacterial Names*, 1980**

https://www.iczn.org/the-code/the-international-code-of-zoological-nomenclature/the-code-online/

International Code of Virus Classification and Nomenclature

Principle II
The application of names of taxonomic groups is determined by means of nomenclatural types.

Principle III

The nomenclature of a taxonomic group is based upon priority of publication.

Art. 11.2. A name has no priority outside the rank at which it is published

Principle IV

Each taxonomic group with a particular circumscription, position, and rank can bear only one correct name, the earliest that is in accordance with the rules, except in specified cases.

Art. 18.5. **The following names, of long usage, are treated as validly published: *Compositae* (nom. alt.: *Asteraceae*; type: *Aster* L.); *Cruciferae* (nom. alt.: *Brassicaceae*; type: *Brassica* L.); *Gramineae* (nom. alt.: *Poaceae*; type: *Poa* L.); *Guttiferae* (nom. alt.: *Clusiaceae*; type: *Clusia* L.); *Labiatae* (nom. alt.: *Lamiaceae*; type: *Lamium* L.); *Leguminosae* (nom. alt.: *Fabaceae*; type: *Faba* Mill. [= *Vicia* L.]); *Palmae* (nom. alt.: *Arecaceae*; type: *Areca* L.); *Papilionaceae* (nom. alt.: *Fabaceae*; type: *Faba* Mill.); *Umbelliferae* (nom. alt.: *Apiaceae*; type: *Apium* L.). When the *Papilionaceae* are regarded as a family distinct from the remainder of the *Leguminosae*, the name *Papilionaceae* is conserved against *Leguminosae*.**

Principle V
Scientific names of taxonomic groups are treated as Latin regardless of their derivation.

Principle VI
The rules of nomenclature are retroactive unless expressly limited.

Workshop on the Nomenclature of algae, fungi, and plants, August 29–31, 2013, La Plata:
How to find the correct name for a taxon: *John McNeill* (modified)

All names (and apparent names) ↓		
Names in effectively published works↓	→	"Names" in works that are not effectively published, e.g. because not printed, or not distributed, or are theses (from 1953).
Validly published names ↓	→	"Names" not validly published, e.g. because pre-starting date, without a description, in a suppressed work, or not intended as a scientific name.
Names whose type is referable to the taxon involved ↓	→	Validly published names, excluded as belonging to other taxa (as correct names or as synonyms).
Names in accordance with the rules (legitimate names) ↓	→	Validly published names, that are contrary to certain rules and therefore illegitimate, e.g. a later homonym, or a superfluous replacement of a previously published available name.
Earliest name applicable to the taxon ↓	→	Legitimate names, to be listed as synonyms.
Correct name		

The Nomenclatural Filter. The steps to be taken in determining the name of an organism under the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* appear in the left-hand column.

Effective publication

Publication is effected, under this Code, by distribution of printed matter (through sale, exchange, or gift) to the general public or at least to scientific institutions with generally accessible libraries. Publication is also effected by distribution on or after 1 January 2012 of electronic material in Portable Document Format (PDF) in an online publication with an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) or an International Standard Book Number (ISBN).

Printed matter limited by date

Effectively published before 1 Jan. 1953, but not after:

- Indelible **autograph** (handwritten material reproduced mechanically, such as by lithography)
- **Trade catalogues**
- Non-scientific **newspapers**
- Printed matter accompanying specimens (e.g., **printed exsiccatae [specimen] labels**)
- **Dissertations or theses** submitted as a requirement for an academic degree unless

  a) the work includes an explicit statement (referring to the requirements of the Code for effective publication), OR

  b) it is published as part of a serial work (e.g., titled series of monographs), OR

  c) there is other internal evidence that it is regarded as effectively published by its author or publisher.

Printed matter limited by date

Effectively published before 1 January 1973, but not after:

- Seed exchange lists

Forms that are never effectively published

- Verbal communication at a public meeting.
- Placing of names in collections or gardens open to the public (Writing a name on herbarium labels is not effective publication!)
- Issue of microfilm of manuscripts, typescripts or other unpublished material.
- Electronic publication other than that described above.
- Any electronic publication prior to 1 Jan 2012.

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Rules on valid publication according to date

The rules of the Code are generally retroactive, but some rules on valid publication are limited by date, meaning that they apply on or after a particular date but do not apply before that date. If such rules are not limited by date, they apply from the nomenclatural starting-point of the taxonomic group concerned (e.g. **1 May 1753 for Spermatophyta**).

The most commonly encountered rules are summarized here, arranged by the date upon which, under the current Code, they become effective.

1 May 1753

• This is the nomenclatural **starting-point** for vascular plants, *Sphagnum* mosses, liverworts (Marchantiophyta), hornworts (Anthocerotophyta), fungi, and most algae; later starting-points apply to all other mosses, some algae, all fossils, and suprageneric names of vascular plants and bryophytes. No validly published name can exist before the starting-point of the respective group.

• The name must be **effectively published.**

• The name must have a **form** that complies with the **rules** (e.g., it cannot be tautonym).

• The name of the genus or species to which the name is assigned must be **validly published either previously or at the same time**.

1 May 1753

• In a combination, the author **must definitely associate the final epithet** with the name of the genus or species, or with its abbreviation.

• The name **must be accepted by the author** in the original publication; it must not be a provisional name or merely cited as a synonym.

• The relative **order of ranks specified** in the Code must be followed. Misplaced ranks include, e.g., species containing genera, and genera containing families or tribes.

• The name of a new taxon must be accompanied by a **description or diagnosis**, or by a reference to one that was previously and effectively published.

1 May 1753

• A new combination, name at new rank, or replacement name must be accompanied by a **reference to the basionym** or **replaced synonym.**

1 January 1908

• For the name of a **new taxon at generic or lower rank**, an **illustration** with **analysis** is no longer acceptable in place of a validating description or diagnosis.

1 January 1912

• The name of a **new genus** may no longer coincide with a Latin technical term in use in morphology at the time of publication. Such a name may be validly published **before 1912** provided that it was accompanied by a binomial species name.

1 January 1935–31 December 2011

• For the name of a new taxon of plants or fungi (except fossils), the validating **description or diagnosis must be in Latin**. For a name published **before 1935**, the validating description or diagnosis may be in **any language**.

1 January 1953

• Alternative names are no longer validly published. Alternative names are two or more different names based on the same type and proposed simultaneously for the same taxon by the same author.

• There must be a **clear indication of the rank** of the taxon concerned. The termination (ending) of a suprageneric name is acceptable as an indication of the rank (e.g. -aceae indicates the rank of family).

Before 1953, a name may be validly published without a clear indication of rank.

1 January 1953

• For the **name of a new taxon**, a **reference** to a previously and effectively published description or diagnosis (when a description or diagnosis is not included in the protologue) **must be full and direct**. For the name of a new taxon published **before 1953** such a reference **may be indirect or even cryptic**.

• For a **new combination, name at new rank, or replacement name**, the reference to the basionym or replaced synonym **must be full and direct**. For such names published **before 1953** there still must be a reference, but **it may be indirect** (e.g. via another name) or even cryptic (e.g. merely an author citation).

1 January 1958

• For the **name of a new taxon at generic or lower rank**, the **type must be indicated**. **Before 1958**, a name may be validly published **without** indicating a type.

1 January 1958–31 December 2011

• For the **name of a new taxon of algae** (except fossils), the validating **description or diagnosis must be in Latin**. For a name published **before 1958**, the validating description or diagnosis may be in **any language**.

1 January 1973

• For a **name to be validly published** without simultaneous fulfillment of all the relevant requirements of the ***Code*** for valid publication, a **full and direct reference must be given** to the **places** where these requirements were previously fulfilled. **Before 1973**, such a name is validly published when **the last** of these requirements is fulfilled.

1 January 1990

• For the **name of a new taxon at generic or lower rank**, the **type must be indicated** using the word "**holotypus**" or "**typus**", or its abbreviation, or its equivalent in a modern language.

• For the **name of a new taxon at specific or lower rank**, the single **herbarium** or **collection** or **institution** in which the type is conserved **must be specified** if the type is a specimen or an **unpublished illustration.**

1 January 1996

• For the **name of a new taxon of fossils**, the validating **description** or **diagnosis** must be in **Latin or English**. For a name published **before 1996**, the validating description or diagnosis may be in **any language**.

1 January 2007

• For the **name of a new taxon at specific or lower rank**, the **type may no longer be an illustration** and **must be a specimen** (except in some cases for non-fossil microscopic algae and non-fossil microfungi).

• For a **new combination, name at new rank, or replacement name**, the **basionym or replaced synonym must be cited**. It is **no longer permitted** to indicate the basionym or replaced synonym **without actually citing it**. (To indicate does not necessarily mean to cite.)

1 January 2012

- For the **name of a new taxon in all groups**, the validating description or diagnosis **must be** in **<u>either</u> Latin** or **English**.

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Legitimate Names

A legitimate name is one that is accord with the rules.

More precisely, it is **not** an **illegitimate name** – a validly published name that is not in accordance with specified rules, principally those on superfluity and homonymy.

[The only other circumstance in which a name may be illegitimate is if it is the name of a family or subdivision of a family based on an illegitimate generic name.]

Causes of illegitimacy – Homonymy

A name of a family, genus, or species, unless conserved or sanctioned, is illegitimate if it is a later homonym, that is, if it is spelled exactly like a name based on a different type that was previously and validly published for a taxon of the same rank.

This is also applies to subdivisions of the same genus, or infraspecific taxa within the same species, even if they are of different rank, if they have the same final epithet and are not based on the same type. The rank-denoting term is not part of the name.

Causes of illegitimacy – "Parahomonyms"

When two or more names of genera or species based on different types are so similar that they are likely to be confused (because they are applied to related taxa or for any other reason) they are to be treated as homonyms. If established practice has been to treat two similar names as homonyms, this practice is to be continued if it is in the interest of nomenclatural stability.

Bradlea Adans. (Fam. Pl. 2: 324, 527. 1763), *Bradleja* Banks ex Gaertn. (Fruct. Sem. Pl. 2: 127. 1790), and *Braddleya* Vell. (Fl. Flumin.: 93. 1829), all commemorating Richard Bradley, are treated as homonyms.

When it is doubtful whether names or their epithets are sufficiently alike to be confused, a request for a decision may be submitted to the General Committee, which will refer it for examination to the committee(s) for the appropriate taxonomic group(s). A recommendation, whether or not to treat the names concerned as homonyms, may then be put forward to an International Botanical Congress and, if ratified, will become a binding decision. These binding decisions are listed in Appendix of the Code.

Causes of illegitimacy – Superfluity (1)

A name, unless conserved or sanctioned, is illegitimate and is to be rejected if it was nomenclaturally superfluous when published, i.e. if the taxon to which it was applied, as circumscribed by its author, definitely included the type of a name that ought to have been adopted, or of which the epithet ought to have been adopted, under the rules.

The key to determining what is and is not a superfluous name is in explaining what is meant by definite inclusion of a type.

Causes of illegitimacy – Superfluity (2)

Essentially relevant article of the Code states that in all cases citing as a synonym a name that ought to have been adopted creates superfluity unless its type is excluded either explicitly or by implication (e.g. by citing it under another taxon). Citing the previously designated or conserved type or an illustration of it has the same effect.

In addition, for names of species or infraspecific taxa, citing the holotype, or all the syntypes (or their illustrations), and for names of genera and subdivisions of genera citing the original type (the single included species name), or all elements eligible as type (all the originally included species names), also causes superfluity.

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Three parameters, controlled by taxonomy, that influence correctness of the name (correct name vs. synonym):

Circumscription: means what is included in the taxon; how broadly or narrowly it is defined.

> *Bolboschoenus maritimus* (L.) Palla in Hallier & Brand Syn. Deutsch. Schweiz. Fl., ed. 3, 3: 2532, 1905.
> = *Bolboschoenus compactus* (Hoffm.) Drobov Trudy Bot. Muz. Imp. Akad. Nauk 11: 92, 1913.

Position: used to denote the placement of a taxon relative to other taxa in a classification, regardless of rank

> *Bolboschoenus maritimus* (L.) Palla in Hallier & Brand Syn. Deutsch. Schweiz. Fl., ed. 3, 3: 2532, 1905.
> ≡ *Scirpus maritimus* L. Sp. Pl.: 51, 1753.

Rank: used for the relative position of a taxon in the taxonomic hierarchy

Bolboschoenus compactus (Hoffm.) Drobov Trudy Bot. Muz. Imp. Akad. Nauk 11: 92, 1913.

≡ *Bolboschoenus maritimus* subsp. *compactus* (Hoffm.) Hejný in Dostál Květ. ČSR: 1844, 1950.

≡ *Bolboschoenus maritimus* var. *compactus* (Hoffm.) T. V. Egorova Fl. Sev.-Vost. Evrop. Časti SSSR 2: 18, 1976.

CONSERVATION

Allows an **incorrect** or **illegitimate name** to be used as a **correct** or **legitimate** name, or it can **change the type** of a name.

REJECTION

Prevents the use of a name, and suppressing a work prevents the use of names in that work.

BINDING DECISION

Rules whether or not a **name is validly published** or whether or not **names are** to be treated as **homonyms**.

CONSERVATION

It is possible to **conserve names** at the ranks of **family**, **genus**, and **species**.

In addition, **a name** of a **subdivision** of a **genus** or **infraspecific** taxon can be conserved **when it is the basionym** of a **generic** or **species** name that could not continue to be used in its current sense without conservation.

Conserved names are listed in the **Appendices** of the ***Code***

CONSERVATION

A **conserved name** may be indicated as such with the abbreviation **“nom. cons.”**, which stands for *nomen conservandum*, Latin for “name to be conserved”.

Ex.: Malvaceae Juss., **nom. cons.**, *Bambusa* Schreb., **nom. cons.**, *Galactites tomentosus* Moench, **nom. cons.**

A **conserved name** at any rank is conserved against **all earlier homonyms**, whether or not those conserved-against, i.e. rejected, homonyms are listed alongside the conserved name in the relevant Appendix.

Ex.: *Ipomoea discolor* (Kunth) G. Don **1838** is conserved against *I. discolor* Jacq. **1798**, and the latter name is **listed** alongside the former in *Appendix*.

Blumea DC. **1833** is conserved against *Blumea* Rchb. **1828–1829** even though the latter name is **not listed** alongside the former in *Appendix*.

CONSERVATION

Conservation does not make the **earlier homonym illegitimate**, but that **name is unavailable for use**. If not otherwise illegitimate, the **earlier homonym** may be the **basionym** of another name based on the same type.

A **conserved name** of a **family** or **genus** is conserved against all other names in the same rank **based on the same type** (**homotypic synonyms**), whether or not the rejected names are listed alongside the conserved name in the relevant Appendix. The conserved name is also conserved against those names **based on different types** (**heterotypic synonyms**) that are listed as rejected in the entry in *Appendix*.

CONSERVATION

Ex.: *Corydalis* DC. **1805** is listed in *App. III* as conserved against the earlier **homonym** *Corydalis* Medik. **1789**, the earlier **homotypic synonym** *Pistolochia* Bernh. **1800**, and three earlier **heterotypic synonyms**: *Capnoides* Mill. **1754**, *Cysticapnos* Mill. **1754** and *Pseudo-fumaria* Medik. **1789**.

These five conserved against names are **all rejected in favour of** *Corydalis* DC. However, the **three heterotypic synonyms** are not rejected under all circumstances.

Any or all of them **may be adopted as correct names if they are considered to apply to genera distinct** from *Corydalis* DC.

CONSERVATION

A **conserved name of a species** is conserved against all names listed under it in *Appendix* as rejected, and **against all combinations** based on the **rejected names**.

Ex.: *Cactus cruciformis* Vell. **1829** is conserved against the earlier **homotypic synonym** *Cereus squamulosus* Salm-Dyck ex DC. **1828** and the three earlier **heterotypic synonyms** *Cereus tenuispinus* Haw. 1827, *C. myosurus* Salm-Dyck ex DC. 1828, and *C. tenuis* DC. 1828.

These four conserved-against names **are all rejected** in favour of *Cactus cruciformis*. The same applies to all combinations that are based on them. However, any of the three heterotypic synonyms **could be adopted as the correct name** if it were considered to apply to a species distinct from *C. cruciformis*.

CONSERVATION

A **name may be conserved with a particular type** or to preserve a particular **spelling** or **gender**. When a type is conserved, it may be **different** from that determined by the ***Code*** or **designated** by the **original author**.

This is a very useful tool for maintaining nomenclatural stability when an existing type or the only element(s) available for designation as the type, **conflict** with the **current usage of the name**.

REJECTION

The ***Code*** also contains provisions for the **formal rejection** of any name, at any rank, that would **cause a disadvantageous nomenclatural change**. No name needs to be conserved against such a rejected name. It is rejected in all circumstances and cannot be used; all combinations based on it are likewise rejected.

Such names are called **nomina utique rejicienda** (names to be rejected in any case, suppressed names) and are listed in *App. V.*

A **nomen utique rejiciendum** may be indicated as such with the abbreviation "**nom. utique rej.**" or (following **Rec. 50E.2**) "**nom. rej.**"

Ex.: *Cacalia* L., **nom. rej.**,
Rosa eglanteria L., **nom. rej.**
Actaea spicata var. *alba* L., **nom. rej.**

Suppressed works

On rare occasions, a particular publication is found to contain so many disruptive names that it is much simpler to propose the whole publication for suppression than to propose each disruptive name individually for rejection. Such publications are called suppressed works, or **opera utique oppressa** (works suppressed in any case), and are listed in *Appendix*.

Names of taxa in specified ranks in a suppressed work are not validly published,

The **procedure** for **proposing** a **work** for **suppression** and the mechanism by which it becomes suppressed are essentially the same as those for **conservation** and **rejection**, although more than one group Committee may consider the proposal if the work covers, e.g., both plants and algae.

Binding decisions

A **binding decision** provides a **ruling in a situation of doubt**. It is made by an **International Botanical Congress**, based on a recommendation by the **General Committee**, in turn based on a recommendation by one of the **group committees**, resulting from a request from an individual.

There are currently **two kinds** of **binding decisions**:

1) Those on the **adequacy** of **descriptive statements** for the purpose of **valid publication**;

1) Those on **treating confusingly similar names** as **homonyms**.