



Specific Epithets

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NEWS AND NOTES

SPECIFIC EPITHETS

The practice of naming a species by using a person's name to form the specific epithet is open to criticism on the following grounds:

1. It prevents giving the species a descriptive epithet. The name *Lilium canadense* tells us where the plant is found. This gives us a clue to many things, including the manner of cultivation which the plant probably requires. If it had been named *Lilium jonesii*, this advantage would have been lost. *Melaleuca leucadendron* means the *Melaleuca* with white wood. This epithet is a translation of the Malay name Kayu putih, and therefore helps in identification, whereas *M. brownii* would not.
2. It often violates the genius of the classical languages. If the specific epithet of a plant was *colquhounii* or *zwaanhoekiana* (fictitious), this would be distressing to persons with a feeling for languages. We have already to put up with too many epithets made from personal names unsuitable for the purpose.
3. It may arise from an ignorance of classical languages easily corrected by making enquiries.
4. It is often done on the pretext of wishing to honour a person. But does it? Is it an honour to Mr. X, if his name serves to form the specific epithet of a plant he has never seen or heard of? Moreover, it presupposes a vanity most people would be ashamed to possess.

I should be glad if the practice discussed above could be discontinued.

J. A. SCHURMAN

EPIDRYOS

A substitute name in the Rapateaceae

Dr. U. Hamann, of the Freien Universität Berlin, Berlin-Dahlem, has very kindly called to my attention the valid publication of the generic name *Epiphyton* prior to its use by me as a new generic name in the Rapateaceae. The required substitution and consequent recombinations are therefore made.

Epidryos Maguire, nom. gen. nov.

Epiphyton Maguire, Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 10: 31. 1958, not *Epiphyton* Bornemann, in Die Versteinerungen des Cambrischen Schichtensystems der Insel Sardinien, Nova Acta Leopoldina, Band 51, p. 16, pl. 1, figs. 9-10. 1886.

1. ***Epidryos allenii*** (Steyerm.) Maguire, comb. nov.
Epiphyton allenii (Steyerm.) Maguire, Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 10: 31. 1958.
2. ***Epidryos micrantherus*** Maguire, comb. nov.
Epiphyton micranthera Maguire, Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 10: 31. 1958.

B. MAGUIRE
The New York Botanical Garden

INTERNATIONAL PHYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

On January 1, 1961, the International Phycological Society was founded. It is dedicated to the promotion of phycology and to the encouragement of international cooperation among phycologists and phycological institutes. Its periodical *Phycologia* is quarterly published.

Membership in the society is open to persons and organizations interested in any aspect of phycology. Annual dues are \$ 2.80 for individual members, \$ 5.60 for organizational members. Membership application blanks can be obtained from the Secretary, Dr. J. Th. Koster, Rijksherbarium, Nonnensteeg 1, Leiden, The Netherlands. The subscription rate to *Phycologia* for libraries is \$ 5.60 per annum.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS

The officers of the Society for 1962 are as follows:

President: Arthur Cronquist
Chairman of the Council:
Mildred E. Mathias
Secretary: Lawrence Heckard
Treasurer: Richard Pohl.

The publication of a membership list was authorized by the council. This list will be sent to members in January 1962. Extra copies may be obtained from the Secretary.

The council elected to "Retired Membership" status the following:

Prof. Sara Bache-Wiig
Dr. Walter C. Muenscher
Mrs. Ruth Ashton Nelson

The American Society of Plant Taxonomists has again set up a committee to assist in the review and evaluation of the AIBS Biological Sciences Curriculum Study Program.