



Correspondence

Notes on Early Land Plants Today

LARS SÖDERSTRÖM¹, ANDERS HAGBORG² & MATT VON KONRAT² (eds.)

¹Department of Biology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway; lars.soderstrom@bio.ntnu.no

²Department of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605–2496, USA; hagborg@pobox.com, mvonkonrat@fieldmuseum.org

The adoption of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has reinforced the urgent need for a global plant checklist to support, facilitate and monitor the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity worldwide (Lughadha 2004). Without this list many of the other objectives in the GSPC cannot be met, and more broadly, in botanical science as a whole, our ability to communicate about plants on a global basis will be compromised (Crane 2004). The Early Land Plants Today project (see <http://www.elpt.org>) is a multi-institutional and multi-national endeavour preparing a working checklist for liverworts and hornworts worldwide (von Konrat *et al.* 2010).

As part of our continued effort to unite the vastly scattered biological literature and data on liverwort and hornwort taxonomy, nomenclature, and geography we are encountering numerous illegitimate and invalid names. We are using the Vienna Code of Botanical Nomenclature (McNeill *et al.* 2006) and we adopt two new rules from the Melbourne Code that is effective from 1. January 2012, e-publishing constitutes valid publication and the diagnosis of new taxa can be in English or Latin (Knapp *et al.* 2012).

The current series of notes on taxonomy and nomenclature of liverworts and hornworts is an attempt to update the nomenclature, correct invalid and illegitimate names and describe new taxa based on studies (mainly molecular) that did not draw nomenclatural conclusions. Each note has separate lead author(s). These notes are critical for a forthcoming world checklist of liverworts and hornworts (Söderström, Hagborg & von Konrat *in prep.*).

The notes are initially published on the web as soon as they are accepted. As soon as they are published, the nomenclature changes will be effective as the Melbourne Code of Botanical Nomenclature allows publishing on internet from 1 Jan. 2012 (Knapp *et al.* 2011). All notes will in the end be collected and printed in a separate volume of Phytotaxa.

Format

The notes usually start with an introduction/explanation of the proposed changes followed by a formal nomenclature part. For taxa treated in the formal part, no author citations are provided in the preamble.

The formal transfer of a taxon includes the new name with authors (abbreviated) in bold, followed by the basionym and in most cases a type specification. We give both the abbreviated citation of the publication details and a reference to the publication itself. If a name is not available in the genus proposed due to homonym issues (Art. 53.1; McNeill *et al.* 2006) we also specify the taxon blocking the use of the name (“Blocking name”) following the usage in Crosby & Engel (2006). However, they are using the term “Earlier name” when there is an illegitimate later homonym. As we are not usually dealing with later homonyms, the second term is mostly superfluous and we use the former term for both situations.

Whenever a new infraspecific name also creates a new autonym, we specify that for clarity.

Author citations and publication abbreviations follow IPNI (www.ipni.org) whenever possible.

Acknowledgement

The work with the world checklist was initiated during a workshop funded by the Biodiversity Synthesis Center of the Encyclopedia of Life in 2009. All notes in this series are results of that meeting.

References

- Crane, P. (2004) Documenting plant diversity: unfinished business. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 359: 735–737.
- Knapp, S., McNeill, J. & Turland, N. (2011) Changes to publication requirements made at the XVIII International Botanical Congress in Melbourne: What does e-publication mean for you? *Phytotaxa*, 28, 1–5.
- Lughadha, E.N. (2004) Towards a list of all known plant species. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, containing papers of a Biological Character* 359: 681–687.
- McNeill, J., Barrie, F.R., Burdet, H.M., Demoulin, V., Hawksworth, D.L., Marhold, K., Nicolson, D.H., Prado, J., Silva, P.C., Skog, J.E., Wiersema, J.H. & Turland, N.J. (2006) International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Vienna Code) adopted by the Seventeenth International Botanical Congress Vienna, Austria, July 2005. *Regnum Vegetabile* 146: 1–260.
- von Konrat, M.J., Söderström, L. & Hagborg, A. (2010) The Early Land Plants Today project: A community-driven effort and a new partnership with Phytotaxa. *Phytotaxa* 9: 11–21.