

## (115–116) Proposals to eliminate the Latin requirement for the valid publication of plant names

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Article 36.1 in the *International code of botanical nomenclature* requires that, as from 1 January 1935, all names of new plant taxa (algae and fossils excepted) must be accompanied by a Latin description or diagnosis in order to be validly published. In this issue (Figueiredo & al. in *Taxon* 59: 617–620) it is argued that the Latin requirement must be removed now as it represents a relic that does not serve the purposes for which it was originally intended. We propose that, as from the effective date of the Melbourne *Code*, a diagnosis or description in any language would suffice to effect valid publication of a plant name, once the other Articles have been complied with.

In order to effect these changes the following two proposals are made:

**(115) In Art. 36.1 add the words in bold italics so it reads as follows:**

“36.1. On or after 1 January 1935 **and until and including 31 December 2012**, a name of a new taxon (algae and all fossil taxa excepted) must, in order to be validly published, be accompanied by a Latin description or diagnosis or by a reference to a previously and effectively published Latin description or diagnosis.”

**(116) Delete Recommendation 36A.1.**

If accepted, these proposals would have no effect on the language requirements the *Code* places on diagnoses for non-fossil algae (Latin on or after 1 January 1958 – Art. 36.2) and fossil taxa (English or Latin on or after 1 January 1996 – Art. 36.3). However, if there is consensus

among the users of names of algae and/or fossils, similar proposals could be made to Arts. 36.2 and 36.3 that would allow the newly adopted *Code* to be completely free of any language requirement for diagnoses for newly described taxa. The primary objective of the authors is to eliminate the Latin requirement at Art. 36.1, and we feel that the best way to effect this change is to not require any specific language.

## **(117–119) Proposals to make the pre-publication deposit of key nomenclatural information in a recognized repository a requirement for valid publication of organisms treated as fungi under the *Code***

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Mycologists first proposed the introduction of some form of a mandatory indexing system for newly proposed fungal names in the 1950s (Ainsworth & Ciferri in *Taxon* 4: 3–6. 1955). Following informal discussions amongst mycologists – particularly during the 7<sup>th</sup> International Mycological Congress in Oslo in 2002 – the CBS–Fungal Diversity Centre in Utrecht initiated MycoBank in 2004 (Crous & al. in *Mycol. Res.* 108: 1236–1238. 2004; Crous & al. in *Stud. Mycol.* 50: 19–20. 2004). This step was taken in order to test the willingness of mycologists to use a depository system where they could place information on new scientific names they were proposing. MycoBank is a fully online system whereby the proposers of new scientific names of organisms treated as fungi under the *Code* (i.e., including chytrids, oomycetes, and slime moulds; Pre. 7 of the *ICBN*; McNeill & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 146. 2006) can deposit key information that becomes public and freely available on the worldwide web only after effective publication of the work including those names. Each name is assigned a unique number from a range made available by Index Fungorum to MycoBank. (Index Fungorum is a partnership of CAB International, CBS–KNAW Fungal Diversity Centre, and Landcare Research, that offers a freely available nomenclator of fungal names in all ranks online to the public.) As of January 2010, the Index Fungorum database held information on 450,280 names; see <http://www.indexfungorum.org/>.

MycoBank operates similarly to GenBank, which provides unique identifiers for molecular sequence data. MycoBank does not require any hard-copy material to be lodged at CBS or elsewhere, but serves to disseminate information on newly proposed taxa widely and rapidly at no cost to all users, whether they are depositors or interrogators. Since 2007, MycoBank has operated under the auspices of the International Mycological Association (IMA), which has assumed long-term responsibility for its operation. Like IAPT, IMA is a Scientific Member of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS).

Scientific names in all ranks are covered in the existing MycoBank system. The basic information required for deposition of a newly described taxon is the name itself, the validating Latin (or for fossil fungi, English) description or diagnosis, details of the nomenclatural type, and (for species and infraspecific taxa) where the type is permanently preserved. New combinations and replacement names require only the full bibliographic reference to the basionym or replaced name, as already specified by Art. 33.4. MycoBank personnel check the uniqueness of the name, alert the depositor to any earlier homonym, and draw attention to orthographic errors (such as incorrect Latin terminations), but do not express any taxonomic opinions; i.e., there is no censorship. Index Fungorum, as the body issuing unique numbers for fungal names, automatically receives a copy of all nomenclatural information deposited in MycoBank.