

(016–017) Two proposals on Rec. 60

Jacek Drobnik & Barbara Bacler-Żbikowska

Department of Pharmaceutical Botany, Medical University of Silesia in Katowice, ul. Ostrogórska 30, 41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland
 Author for correspondence: *Jacek Drobnik, drobnik@onet.pl*

DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.12705/631.43>

Names of genera can be composed in an arbitrary manner (Art. 20.1). Their grammatical gender, if not obvious, is to be chosen by a subsequent author (Art. 62.3). Apart from using grammatically agreed adjectival epithets in species names, there is also another grammatical need: formation of adjectives that are based on the genitive form of a noun. Giving the gender and declension pattern (by including the ending of the genitive singular) is a practice in classical dictionaries. Thus for example:

Croton (-onis) forms adjectives *crotoni-folius*, not *croti-folius*

Prinos (-i) and *Dolichos* (-i) (Greek 2nd declension) form
dolichi-carpus, not *dolicho-carpus*

Erigeron (-ontis) forms correctly *erigeront-inus*, not
erigeri-folius

Latin 3rd declension nouns with -es take a variety of genitive endings (e.g. *Abies* -etis, *Fomes* -itis, *Ribes* -is, *Cannabis* -is), thus *cannabaceus* and *cannabi-folius*, not *cannabidi-folius* and *Cannabidaceae*.

(016) To avoid bad word formation in Latin epithets derived from generic names, add the following new Recommendation to Rec. 60H:

“60H.2. Original or subsequent authors should derive adjectival forms from Latin generic names in accordance with classical usage or at least nomenclatural tradition, carefully considering the etymology and rules of classical declension. If such a rule is not obvious, the genitive form should be proposed and effectively published (compare Art. 62.3).”

(017) In Rec. 60G Ex. 3 replace the words “honey (*mel*, *melitos*)” with “honey (*meli*, *melitos*)”.

Example 3 in Recommendation 60G contains an error in the Greek word for honey: *mel*, genitive *melitos*. This is a confusion with the Latin word *mel*, genitive *mellis*. The proper Greek word for honey is μέλι, which is transcribed into *meli*.