



An Additional Note on *Citrullus* Forskål, nom. conserv. propos.

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Sciences, of which she was secretary in 1930 and president in 1931; also an associate member of the Society of American Foresters.

She was an authority on the taxonomy and ecology of United States range plants, especially of the Southeast, and on the taxonomy, distribution, and economic values of palms. Her interest in and knowledge of palms brought her inquiries from all over the world and from defense agencies and others in Washington concerned with important palm products. She served as taxonomist for the Vegetable Oil Mission of FAO in Venezuela in 1948. She was a contributor to the Forest Service *Range plant handbook* (1937) and, in connection with that work, developed a leafvenation method of distinguishing the highly poisonous waterhemlock genus (*Cicuta*)

from the superficially similar innocuous angelicas. Among her more important publications were *The wax palms* (1930), a series of articles on palms in the Louisiana Conservation Review (1937-1939), the palm list in *Standardized plant names* (1942), and *Palm trees in the United States* (1950); she was also coauthor of *Field book of forage plants on longleaf pine—bluestem ranges* of Louisiana (1952). During her earlier days she was a vocalist and sang on the radio. Because of her friendly, intelligent, and vivacious personality, wide travel and correspondence, and her services as guide to the A.A.A.S. meeting in New Orleans in 1931 for world scientists, Miss Bomhard had an enormous acquaintance, and her loss will be widely felt.

W. A. DAYTON

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An additional note on *Citrullus* Forskål, nom. conserv. propos.

by

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Fosberg recently published his opinion (Taxon 2(4): 99-101) regarding my proposal to conserve the generic name *Citrullus* for the watermelon. I was glad to know that he came to the same conclusion, viz. that *Citrullus* is to be conserved against *Anguria* and *Colocynthis*. Fosberg, however, considered that *Citrullus* should be adopted from Schrader (1836), and not from Forskål (1775), as I had proposed. The difference between our opinions seems partly to be caused by the fact that Fosberg did not fully understand my discussion in Bot. Mag. Tokyo 61: 1 & 4 (1948), which was partly written in Japanese. So I would like to explain here my intention once more.

Although I was aware of the rather inadequate form of Forskål's publication, this did not deter me. My main reason for proposing to base *Citrullus* on the work of Forskål (1775), was to avoid the necessity of introducing a new binary combination for the watermelon. If *Citrullus* is conserved from Schrader (1836), a new combination for the watermelon, via *Citrullus Anguria* (Dechesne), is inevitable under the present Code, for if *Citrullus Battich* Forskål is rejected, the earliest available binary name is *Cucurbita Anguria* Dechesne in Lamarck, Encycl.

Méth. 2: 150 & 158 (1786). However, the specific epithet *Anguria* is not desirable for the Watermelon, because *Anguria* has been widely used for another genus of *Cucurbitaceae*; it would therefore become a source of confusion.

The next question is the validity of Forskål's publication. In his Flora Aegyptico-Arabica (1775) he clearly employed the Linnean system of binary nomenclature, and the adoption of a vernacular name as a specific epithet is not uncommon and is permissible under the Code. Moreover, *Citrullus Battich* was published with description, and in the same form as the other new species in his book; therefore it is quite natural to regard the binomial *Citrullus Battich* as validly published.

Though Forskål described three species under *Citrullus*, the first was the only for which he introduced a binomial, viz. *C. Battich*. The fact that the two other species probably belong to other genera, is of no importance for the solution of our nomenclatorial problem. In my opinion Forskål's *Citrullus* with only one validly published binomial, viz. *C. Battich*, may be regarded as a monotypic genus. This is a very rare case, and this interpretation does not affect other cases. The basic principle of Art. 24

seems to be the wish to avoid disadvantageous changes by the strict application of the rules in genera, which, like *Citrullus* Forskål, have long been in general use.

So I again propose to conserve *Citrullus* Forskål (1775), typified by *C. Battich*, for the watermelon. I hope that the question

whether *Citrullus* should be conserved and dated either from Forskål (1775), which means that it is based on *C. Battich*, or from Schrader (1836), in which case a new combination, *C. Anguria*, is necessary, will be discussed at the coming congress.

Reinstatement of *Eranthemum pulchellum* Andr.

by

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The common blue eranthum, native of India and commonly planted as an ornamental in tropical gardens and in greenhouses, has received considerable mistreatment, nomenclaturally. In recent years it has usually been known as *Eranthemum nervosum* (Vahl) R. Br. ex R. & S., but almost as commonly as *Daedalacanthus nervosus* (Vahl) T. Anders., neither of which names appear to be correct. The earliest name available for this species clearly seems to be *Eranthemum pulchellum* Andrews, of which the exact date is not known but is earlier than 1800 and probably at least as early as 1798. The following annotated synonymy is intended to clarify the nomenclatural history of this species.

1. *Eranthemum pulchellum* Andrews Botanists' Repository 2: pl. 88. [1798?].

This name was effectively published and accompanied by a good description and plate and seems unquestionably to be the common blueflowered plant with imbricate variegated bracts. The tips of several of the bracts are slightly divergent, rather than erect as is usual for the species, but an occasional variant shows this character (i.e. *Purpus* 17008, and *Colani*² 2902, U.S. Nat. Herb.). It is by no means sufficiently marked to justify its reference in the Index Kewensis to the rather different, but related *E. purpurascens* Wight ex Nees. The latter has green bracts which are strongly divergent at apex, less imbricate, and longer flowers with narrow limb purple rather than blue in color. All volumes of Andrews Botanists' Repository bear the date 1797 on the outside, as does vol. 1 on the title page. The other title pages are undated. Vol. 2 has generally been cited as 1800. The parts were issued separately and Nakai, Jour. Jap. Bot. 17: 422-424. 1941, lists supposed dates of publication for all of the plates, giving April 1800 for plate 88. The text of his article is in Japanese and is not available

in translation, but two things suggest that he may be wrong, both of which are pertinent to our point here. In 1798 Roxburgh, referred to *E. pulchellum* Andr. in synonymy of *Justicia pulchella*, and in 1800 Ventenat placed it in synonymy of his *Ruellia varians* (*vide infra*).

2. *Justicia pulchella* Roxb. Pl. Corom. 2: 41. t. 177. 1798.

This is obviously based on *E. pulchellum* Andr., as the latter is cited as a synonym with a complete reference except for the date. This may be taken as proof that Andrews' name appeared earlier than Roxburgh's second volume. The fact that Roxburgh's plant is definitely not the same as that of Andrews, but probably *E. purpurascens* is immaterial in light of Article 65 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

3. *Ruellia varians* Vent. Descr. Pl. Nouv. Hort. Cels. t. 46. [1800].

This likewise has *E. pulchellum* Andrews cited in synonymy, making *Ruellia varians* superfluous when published and a synonym of *E. pulchellum*, although the plant described and figured may not belong here. Willdenow later reduced *Ruellia varians* to *E. pulchellum*, Hort. Berol. Suppl. 2. 1813.

4. *Justicia nervosa* Vahl, Enum. Pl. 1: 164. 1804.

Based on a Röttler specimen from India, but clearly belonging to *E. pulchellum*. Aiton, Hort. Kew. ed. 2. 1: 42. 1810, places *Ruellia varians* Vent., *E. pulchellum* Andr. and *Justicia pulchella* Roxb. in synonymy here.

5. *Eranthemum pulchellum* w. [Willd.?] in Allg. Deutsch. Gartenmag. 7: 176, t. 17, 1810.

The plant illustrated is clearly *E. pulchellum* and if the "w" is assumed to be Willdenow, the name clearly is derived from that