



Conservation of Generic Names

Author(s): T. A. Sprague

Source: *Taxon*, Vol. 1, No. 4 (Mar., 1952), p. 62

Published by: [International Association for Plant Taxonomy \(IAPT\)](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1216233>

Accessed: 18/09/2011 14:35

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Taxon*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

Conservation of Generic Names

by

T. A. SPRAGUE (Cheltenham)

When proposing a generic name for conservation, it is essential, as pointed out by Dr FOSBERG (*Taxon* 1 (1):15) to indicate its *type*; it is also essential to indicate the precise *circumscription* adopted by the proposer for the genus concerned. In the list of *Nomina generica conservanda* published in the *International Rules*, ed. 3, this latter indication was effected — for the *Phanerogamae* only — by citation of the running number of the genus in Dalla Torre et Harms, *Genera Siphonogamarum*, as well as by the relevant *nomina rejicienda*. The fact which must be faced is that, whereas the Rules are applicable to *all* taxonomic classifications, the conservation of a generic name as an exception to the Rules is applicable only with reference to a *particular* classification: thus *Mahonia* Nutt. is conserved, but only for so long as it is treated

as a genus independent from *Berberis*; and *Nasturtium* R. Br. is conserved, but only in a restricted sense, excluding the genus *Rorippa*. This is an *inherent* disadvantage of conservation, and cannot be eliminated by re-wording the text of Art. 21, Note 3: it may not be possible to ascertain the precise circumstances in which a generic name ceases to be conserved, unless the limits of the genus have been defined clearly and precisely at the time of conservation. It will probably be agreed that, when doubt arises as to the continued conservation of a generic name against one not included in the list as a *nomen rejiciendum*, the case should be referred immediately to the appropriate Special Committee, which will submit its decision, via the General Committee and the Advisory Board, to the next ensuing International Botanical Congress.

OBITUARY

Mr J. M. Black, M.B.E., A.L.S. (1855-1951)

The Australian systematic botanist, JOHN MCCONNELL BLACK, died suddenly at his home in Adelaide, South Australia, on December 2nd, 1951, at the great age of 96. He was the author of the most recent and widely used of the Australian state floras: "*The flora of South Australia*" which was first published by the Government of South Australia in Adelaide as four successive volumes 1922-1929; it was one of a series of authoritative Handbooks of the Flora and Fauna of South Australia issued by the British Science Guild (South Australian Branch). When the issue ran out of print, a Second Edition was prepared by the author, embodying many revisions, changes and additional illustrations; Parts I and II appeared in 1943 and 1948 respectively, and at the time of his death the manuscript of Part III was almost complete; Part IV remains to be prepared, which the Editorial Committee intends to have done. This Flora is the standard work for South Australia and adjacent regions, particularly for semi-desert vegetation.

He also published a smaller book "*The naturalised Flora of South Australia*" in 1909.

Mr BLACK did not apply himself to botany

seriously until 1902, when at the age of 47 he had the means to retire from his twenty years of work as a journalist. His ability and aptitude for study soon made him a very competent systematist. He collected a good herbarium of his own (now bequeathed to the University of Adelaide and added to the Herbarium of the Botany Department in which he was Honorary Lecturer in Systematic Botany); and he contributed a series of about fifty articles on the local flora to the *Transactions* of the Royal Society of South Australia, of which he became a member in 1907 and President in 1933-4. He worked as an amateur at his home, never as a professional botanist.

In 1930 he attended the 5th International Botanical Congress in Cambridge as representative of various Australian scientific bodies, and in the same year was made an Associate of the Linnean Society of London *honoris causa*. Four Australian scientific societies subsequently honored him by the award of medals, and the King recognised his botanical services to his country with the decoration of Member of the order of the British Empire in 1942.

Born in Scotland, educated at schools in