

PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE CODE

Edited by Nicholas J. Turland & John H. Wiersema

(032) Proposal to substitute Art. 9 Ex. 9 with a new Example

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As pointed out previously (Jørgensen in Taxon 63: 132–133. 2014), the newly introduced Art. 9 Ex. 9 of the *Melbourne Code* (McNeill & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 154. 2012) is inappropriate since the choice of epitype for *Lichen saxatilis* L. is random and based on the only Swedish specimen available in the study from a locality where the original material cannot have originated (there is a wide variation of *Parmelia saxatilis* (L.) Ach. in Sweden)—nor is there any statement why such a choice is necessary.

The best example I have come across among published epitypifications made on fresh, molecularly studied specimens is that of *Salicornia europaea* L. by Kadereit & al. (in Taxon 61: 1227–1239. 2012), and I accordingly propose that as a substitute for the Example in the *Melbourne Code*.

(032) Substitute Art. 9 Ex. 9 with a new Example:

“Ex. 9. The lectotype of *Salicornia europaea* L. (Herb. Linn.

No. 10.1 (LINN), designated by Jafri & Rateeb in Jafri & El-Gadi, Fl. Libya 58: 57. 1978) does not show the relevant characters by which it could be identified for the precise application of this name in a difficult, critical group of taxa, which are best characterized molecularly. Therefore Kadereit & al. (in Taxon 61: 1234. 2012) designated a molecularly tested specimen from the type locality (Sweden, Gotland, *Piirainen 4222*, MJG) to support the type from which they assumed no molecules could be extracted.”

I also want the relevant ruling bodies to consider if this should not be entered as a Voted Example, since it indicates a practice that does not make molecular tests on old, scrappy specimens mandatory under Art. 9.8, where the word “demonstrably” is troublesome in relation to the needs of molecular testing of old type specimens, which might be destroyed by this procedure, and usually for no reason, as it is difficult, if not impossible, to get results by the present techniques.