

(228) Proposal to add a new Recommendation H.5B

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Article H.5.1 rules that the appropriate rank of a nothotaxon is that of the postulated or known parent taxa or, if they are unequally ranked (Art. H.5.2), the lowest rank of the parent taxa. When the name of a nothotaxon is in a rank inappropriate to the hybrid formula, it is incorrect in relation to that hybrid formula, but it may nevertheless be correct or become correct later (Art. H.5 Note 1) by applying it to another hybrid formula with different ranks. On rare occasions, however, only one nothotaxon between two species is known, and one or both of the parent taxa are at an infraspecific rank. A nothospecific name published for such a hybrid will be in a rank inappropriate to the hybrid formula. It would be possible to publish additionally an infraspecific name, but in order to be validly published it would have to have a different type to the nothospecific name (Art. 26.2), and then the infraspecific name and the resulting autonym would be taxonomic synonyms. We feel that such attempts to publish a name in the appropriate rank would

lead to more confusion, and that in such cases the hybrid formula is informative enough. Therefore, we propose a new Recommendation after Rec. H.5A, as follows:

(228) Add a new Recommendation H.5B:

"H.5B.1. If the known or postulated parent taxa of an interspecific hybrid are at different ranks, and no nothospecific name has been previously published for a hybrid between those species, the hybrid formula should be used instead of publishing a nothospecific name that would be in a rank inappropriate to that hybrid formula."

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