

## (284–285) Proposals to add a voted Example to Article 60.9 in order to end the confusion over the maintenance or omission of hyphens in epithets formed from names containing a preposition or a definite article

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Article 60.9 currently states: “The use of a hyphen in a compound epithet is treated as an error to be corrected by deletion of the hyphen. A hyphen is permitted only when the epithet is formed of words that usually stand independently, or when the letters before and after the hyphen are the same (see also Art. 23.1 and 23.3).”

In epithets formed from names containing a preposition or definite article, such as “Le Testu”, “De Laet”, or “Van Meel”, examples of omission, maintenance, and insertion of the hyphen are in current use. The wording of Article 60.9 as regards whether or not the words making up an epithet can “usually stand independently” has been interpreted differently by different authors.

To end the confusion regarding the omission, maintenance, or insertion of hyphens in such epithets we present two alternative proposals to add a voted Example to Art. 60.9:

### (284) Add a voted Example to Art. 60.9:

“\*Ex. 24bis. Hyphen to be omitted: *Peperomia lasierrana* Trel. & Yunck. (1950 as “*la-sierrana*”), not “*la-sierrana*”; hyphen not to be inserted: *Synsepalum letestui* Aubrév. & Pellegr. (1961 as “*Le Testui*”), not “*le-testui*”.”

### (285) Add a voted Example to Art. 60.9:

“\*Ex. 25bis. Hyphen to be maintained: *Peperomia la-sierrana* Trel. & Yunck. (1950), not “*lasierrana*”; hyphen to be inserted: *Synsepalum le-testui* Aubrév. & Pellegr. (1961 as “*Le Testui*”), not “*letestui*”.”

A vote for either of these two proposals will remove the current ambiguity that exists in the interpretation of the wording of Art. 60.9. To date, in the International Plant Names Index (IPNI), there are 135 records that would require editing if Prop. 284 were to be

accepted; in the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (WCSP), 209 records would need to be edited (see Table 1). A vote for Prop. 285 would also require some editing of the IPNI and WCSP databases, but because these records cannot be easily searched for we do not know how many epithets would be affected and they would have to be dealt with as and when they come to light in the course of our work or via user feedback.

Recommendation 60C.5(c) provides examples of how a prefix consisting of an article or containing an article should be united to the name: “*leclercii* after *Le Clerc*, *dubuyssonii* after *DuBuysson*, *lafarinae* after *La Farina*, *logatoi* after *Lo Gato*”. However, this Recommendation is strictly concerned with the formation of **new** epithets based on personal names and does not refer to the treatment of hyphens.

**Table 1.** Use of a hyphen in epithets formed from names containing a preposition or definite article.

Hyphenated preposition or article	Number of epithets in IPNI	Number of epithets in WCSP
<i>le-</i>	29	96
<i>la-</i>	3	2
<i>de-</i>	42	30
<i>von-</i>	1	2
<i>van-</i>	60	79
<b>Total number of epithets</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>209</b>