

(271) Proposal to add a Note after Article 41.3 to clarify the meaning of “indirect reference” in the context of a basionym or replaced synonym citation

Emma Wrankmore & Rafaël Govaerts

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3DS, United Kingdom

Address for correspondence: Emma Wrankmore, e.wrankmore@kew.org

DOI <https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.12951>

First published as part of this issue. See online for details.

Under Art. 41.3 of the *Shenzhen Code* (Turland & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 159. 2018), the definition of an indirect reference to a basionym or replaced synonym is referred to Art. 38.14, where an indirect reference is defined in the context of reference to a previously published description. The two cases are not exactly the same and the word “indirect” itself seems to have caused different opinions to emerge in recent years. It seems clear to us that the indirect reference, i.e. “clear (if cryptic) indication”, has to be “to a basionym or replaced synonym” as defined in Art. 41.3. All the Examples under that Article refer to a basionym or replaced synonym in a single step. However, it has recently been asserted that such a reference to a basionym or replaced synonym can also be two-stepped or more, i.e. to a publication where there is a further reference to the basionym or earlier validly published name. We do not think the Article has been traditionally used in that sense, but this has resulted in a number of names being declared illegitimate superfluous names, despite the limiting statement in the last sentence of Art. 52 Note 3.

A recently discussed example is *Aster pyrenaeus* Desf. ex DC. (Fl. Franç., ed. 3, 4: 146. 1805), in the synonymy of which Candolle cited “*Aster sibiricus* Lam. Dict. 1. p. 305.”, which refers to an entry in Lamarck’s *Encyclopédie méthodique* (1: 305. 1783), where Lamarck gave a description of “*Aster sibiricus* L.” including plants from Siberia and the Pyrenees. In our opinion and as has traditionally been assumed, Candolle’s reference is to be interpreted as “*Aster sibiricus* sensu Lam., non L.”, though others have recently argued that it is a two-step reference to the avowed replaced synonym *Aster sibiricus* L. (Sp. Pl.: 872. 1753) because that name was not excluded and therefore the name *A. pyrenaeus* would be superfluous and

illegitimate. This was clearly not the intention of Candolle, who provided a new name for the specimens from the Pyrenees, which he considered to be different from those originating in Siberia, and therefore he merely referred to the Pyrenean plants included by Lamarck under *A. sibiricus*. In older literature such indications were not unusual because using “sensu” was not yet established. We also feel this is in contradiction to Art. 41.3 because the indirect reference does not refer “to a basionym or replaced synonym” but rather to another publication in which a different, earlier-published name is used.

Some have taken this even further, to include many steps from one publication to another to eventually arrive at a publication that includes an earlier-published name that they therefore assert must be included in the new taxon. This does not seem the intention of an indirect reference and could lead to great instability in any eighteenth or early nineteenth century name that cites another name or reference. Therefore, we feel it is necessary to define indirect reference in the context of Art. 41.3. Such a clarification should maintain current usage because Art. 41.4 can still apply in cases where an indirect reference is not to a basionym or replaced synonym.

(271) Add a new Note after Art. 41.3:

“Note n. An indirect reference to a basionym or replaced synonym is a clear (if cryptic) indication of the place of publication of that basionym or replaced synonym or one of its homotypic names. An indication of an author and/or publication different from those of a potential basionym or replaced synonym is in itself not considered sufficient to be an indirect reference to that basionym or replaced synonym.”