

(317–318) Proposals to allow new combinations, names at new rank and replacement names to be effectively and validly published by registration only

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A great number of combinations are still needed if we want to move from the traditional morphology-based classification system to one of monophyletic groups. Vorontsova & Simon (in *Taxon* 61: 735–746. 2012) estimated that 10%–20% of names for species of *Poaceae* would have moved to a different genus by the time the realignment is complete. The discovery of phylogenetic relationships between taxa and their place in the tree of life is ongoing and such results are often published in high-impact journals. Unfortunately, the authors often do not make any or only some of the new combinations needed to implement their newly proposed taxonomy and some journals do not even allow the publication of new combinations as part of included papers. We largely agree with the idea behind such a policy that there should be no mixing of taxonomy and nomenclature. However, the necessary nomenclatural paper often does not follow the taxonomic one for a variety of reasons. As the publication of a new combination, name at new rank or replacement name is largely a technical matter of no intrinsic scientific merit, we feel that a more contemporary approach is needed and, therefore, no longer see a need for such nomenclatural papers or supplements. For many years now it has already been possible to register and publish new names using the Index Fungorum e-publications system (<http://www.indexfungorum.org/names/IndexFungorumRegister.htm>), which allows for the publication of new combinations, names at new rank and replacement names by registration with the additional step of creating a PDF that complies with the requirements of effective publication. It seems to us unnecessary to have this additional step of creating a PDF and we propose, therefore, the publication of new combinations, names at new rank and replacement names by registration alone at recognized nomenclatural repositories as defined under Art. 42 of the *Shenzhen Code* (Turk & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 159. 2018).

On the one hand, there is a continuous call that, to accelerate taxonomy, nomenclature must be made more straightforward, like allowing English as the language of a description or diagnosis and allowing effective publication online, which were implemented in 2012. On the other hand, we foresee that the strongest opposition to this proposal will be that it will create large numbers of “unnecessary” combinations. However, we have seen in recent years numerous papers with many hundreds and even thousands of combinations.

The current system does not prevent this either, but our proposal will make it a lot easier for taxonomists to do the necessary nomenclature, where they would otherwise not feel inclined to spend time publishing nomenclatural papers, and will therefore allow for their taxonomy to be used more quickly. The main criticism that has been expressed about the Index Fungorum e-publications system is that the names are not supported by evidence. This evidence is of course taxonomy and we do feel strongly that although taxonomy and nomenclature are complementary, they should continue to be seen as different disciplines because mixing them is often the source of errors and misinterpretations. It may also strengthen the relationship between taxonomists and nomenclaturalists and shine a light on the importance of nomenclature and the work we do. We propose the two main articles below and anticipate that the Editorial Committee will make the necessary cross-references elsewhere. The date of publication would be the date the name first appears on the repository website. As Art. 31.1 already states “the date on which the printed matter or electronic material became available”, we assume this is sufficient to include this new case.

(317) Add a new Article to Art. 29 to allow for effective publication by registration only:

“29.1bis. On or after 1 January 2026, publication is also effected for new combinations, names at new rank (Art. 6.10), and replacement names (Art. 6.11) by registration of the new combination, name at new rank, or replacement name at a recognized nomenclatural repository (Art. 42). The date of effective publication of such registered names will be the date they first appear on the repository website.”

(318) Add a new Article to Art. 41 to allow for valid publication of a new combination, name at new rank or replacement name by registration only:

“41.5bis. New combinations, names at new rank, or replacement names that are effectively published under Art. 29.1bis are also considered to be simultaneously validly published. Any errors or omissions are correctable after registration, not affecting the date of valid publication. However, because only new combinations, names at new rank, or replacement names can be validly published by this procedure, correction as the name of a new taxon is not permitted.”