



Report of the Committee for Bryophyta: 6

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Gea Zijlstra, Secretary¹

The previous report of this Committee appeared in Taxon 48: 563-565. 1999. In the spring of 1999, Ochyra resigned; the remaining 11 members are: Deguchi (Japan), Geissler (Switzerland), Grolle (Germany, Chairman), Isoviita (Finland), Iwatsuki (Japan), Magill (U.S.A.), Seppelt (Australia), Stotler (U.S.A.), Váňa (Czech Republic), Vitt (Canada), and Zijlstra (Netherlands, Secretary). This implies that 7 votes constitute the 60 % majority required to recommend action on a proposal (adoption or rejection). The votes are recorded in the order yes : no : abstention.

(1189) Conserve *Pylaisia* Schimp. [*Musci*] against *Pilaisaea* Desv. [*Musci*] (proposed by Geissler & al. in Taxon 44: 621-623. 1995). Votes: 8 : 1 : 2 (recommended).

The Committee agrees that *Pylaisia* and *Pilaisaea* are likely to be confused, thus have to be treated as homonyms. The substitute name *Pylaisiella* Kindb. ex Grout has been used occasionally, and is still in use. Therefore this Gordian knot received ample consideration, and several additional arguments in favour of conservation were given. Rejection of the proposal would leave us with the taxonomically ambiguous *Pilaisaea* Desv. Moreover, if *Pylaisiella* were to be used, another set of parahomonyms emerges: are *Pylaisiella* and *Pylaiella* – the commonly used orthographic variant of *Pilayella* Bory 1823 [*Algae*] – likely to be confused? These genera occur in the same territories (along the coasts of the Baltic sea their respective habitats are sometimes found almost side by side), so they could occur in the same local cryptogamic flora or environmental report. Despite a plea from Crosby to reject the proposal, the Committee concluded that use of *Pylaisiella* should be abandoned and recommends conservation of *Pylaisia* as proposed, except that authorship of the rejected name needs to be corrected by deletion of “ex Bach. Pyl.” after “Desv.”

(1191) Conserve *Tortula* Hedw., *nom. cons.* [*Musci*], with a different conserved type (proposed by Margadant & al. in Taxon 44: 623-624. 1995). Votes: 1 : 9 : 1 (not recommended).

The proposal to replace *Tortula subulata* Hedw. by *T. muralis* Hedw. would be useful for those who consider *T. subulata* as belonging to *Syntrichia* Brid. Specialists of *Syntrichia*, however, do not include *T. subulata* and believe that it is closely related to *T. muralis*. After two ballots (the first of which was indecisive) the Committee concluded that in such a doubtful case the type should not change and the proposal is better rejected.

(1238) Conserve *Hypnum salebrosum* Hoffm. ex F. Weber & D. Mohr [*Musci*] with a conserved type (proposed by Hedenäs & Isoviita in Taxon 45: 536-537. 1996). Votes: 10 : 0 : 1 (recommended).

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This is a pre-starting-point name. Upon its valid publication in 1803 it was applied to a species that included the type of *Hypnum plumosum* Hedw. and was therefore illegitimate. Moreover, the original specimen of Weber and Mohr that could be found is very poor. To continue use of the name in its current sense, as the basionym of *Brachythecium salebrosum*, a new type has been proposed, and conservation with this type is now recommended.

(1287) Conserve *Desmotheca* Lindb. [*Musci*] against *Cryptocarpus* Dozy & Molk. [*Musci*] (proposed by Crosby in Taxon 46: 337-338. 1997). Votes: 9 : 1 : 1 (recommended).

Lindberg published *Desmotheca* as a substitute name for '*Cryptocarpus*' Dozy & Molk. 1844, non Kunth 1817 (a spermatophyte). In fact the original spelling of the moss name is *Cryptocarpus*, for which the variant spelling *Cryptocarpus* was in use until it was replaced by *Desmotheca*. To stop the debate on whether names in *-on* and *-us* may be considered as likely to be confused, the Committee found it safest to recommend conservation as proposed.

(1305) Reject *Polytrichum longifolium* Bruch & Schimp. [*Musci*] (proposed by Zanten & Margadant in Taxon 46: 547-549. 1997). Votes: 10 : 0 : 1 (recommended as modified).

The original proposal asked for conservation of *Dawsonia superba* Grev. against *Polytrichum longifolium*. A "Nom. Ed." note suggested that the Committee might consider to reject the latter under Art. 56. The Committee concluded that this would indeed be the preferable solution, as that name had been ignored for so long. Its validity had been doubted, but the Committee considers it to be validly published: its incidental mention and very brief diagnosis in the original publication are due to the fact that it is not a European species. Zanten agreed with the suggested modification of his proposal (Margadant had died), and the Committee, by a 9 : 0 : 3 vote, agreed to consider the modified proposal, just to reject *P. longifolium* by including it in App. IV, which it now recommends. One detail needs correction: the date of publication is 1844, not 1855 as stated in the proposal.