

## REQUESTS FOR BINDING DECISIONS ON APPLICATION OF THE CODE

Edited by John McNeill

**(6) Request for a binding decision on whether *Lerouxia* Mérat (*Primulaceae*) and *Lerrouxia* Caball. (*Plumbaginaceae*) are sufficiently alike to be confused*****Lerouxia* (*Primulaceae*)**

Mérat (Nouv. Fl. Env. Paris: 77. 1812) published *Lerouxia* to include a single species, *L. nemorum* (L.) Mérat, based on *Lysimachia nemorum* L. (Sp. Pl.: 148. 1753), which occurs mostly in western and central Europe. It was named in honour of Professor J.J. Leroux then dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris. There is a long tradition to consider it a synonym of *Lysimachia*. Endlicher (Gen. Pl. 2: 732. 1839) already put the name in infrageneric rank, as *Lysimachia* c. *Lerouxia* (Mérat) Endl., a treatment that was accepted at the sectional rank in comprehensive studies of *Primulaceae* (e.g., Pax & Knuth in Engl., Pflanzenr. IV. 32 (Heft 237): 261–264. 1905), and subsequently followed in European Floras (e.g., L. Villar in Castroviejo & al., Fl. Iber. 5: 46–51. 1997).

***Lerrouxia* (*Plumbaginaceae*)**

Caballero (in Trab. Mus. Nac. Ci. Nat., Ser. Bot. 28: 13. 10 Mar 1935) published *Lerrouxia*, including a single new species, *L. ifniensis* Caball. This rare genus is endemic to the Western Sahara, and was named in honour of Alejandro Lerroux y García, who was the Spanish Prime Minister around that time. Although in the protologue it was related to *Limoniastrum* Heist. ex Fabr. 1759, important morphological differences were shown to warrant generic separation. Scarcely four months after the description of *Lerrouxia*, Font Quer (in Cavanillesia 7: 150. 25 Jul 1935) put *Lerrouxia* in synonymy of *Limoniastrum*, recombining the species name as *Limoniastrum ifniense* (Caball.) Font Quer. In the same work, however, Font Quer did still more: he proposed the provisional name *Caballeroa* as a possible avowed substitute for *Lerrouxia*. As such, *Caballeroa* is not validly published (Art. 34.1 of the *Vienna Code*). Besides this, the invention of the name *Caballeroa* was not a happy choice, because with this ‘name’, Font Quer suggested a parohomonym of *Caballeria* Ruiz & Pav. 1794, a genus in the *Myrsinaceae*.

Nevertheless, since Font Quer’s action, *Lerrouxia* has long been considered homonymous with *Lerouxia*, and under the name

*Caballeroa* this taxon was regularly segregated from *Limoniastrum* (e.g., Linczevski in Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast. 1968: 175. 1968; Mabberley, Pl.-book (corr. repr. 1989): 87. 1993). Those authors listed *Caballeroa* without, however, validating the name.

More recently, Crespo & Lledó (in Bot. J. Linn. Soc. 132: 169. 2000) demonstrated that *Caballeroa* is not a validly published name, since it was not accepted when published, and therefore they proposed *Saharanthus* as a replacing name, also assuming the homonymy of *Lerrouxia* and *Lerouxia*. Segregation of *Saharanthus* is based on both molecular (cf. Lledó & al., l.c.: 175–191) and morphological data (cf. Fabregat & al. in Acta Bot. Malac. 28: 193–195. 2003). *Saharanthus* is currently accepted in works of wide general use (e.g. Mabberley, Pl.-book, ed. 3: 759. 2008; Takhtajan, Fl. Pl., ed. 2: 157. 2009), and also in at least two general on-line databases: The Plant List (<http://www.theplantlist.org/tpl/record/tro-100362951>, accessed: 2 Nov 2012) and Tropicos (<http://www.tropicos.org/Name/100362949>, accessed: 2 Nov 2012). Furthermore, several web pages sponsored by wildflower groups (e.g. <http://www.teline.fr/fre/Photographies/Toutes-les-familles/Plumbaginaceae/Saharanthus-ifniensis>, accessed: 2 Nov 2012) and by individuals (e.g. <http://www.florasilvestre.es/mediterranea/index.htm>, accessed: 2 Nov 2012) accept *Saharanthus*.

**Conclusion**

We are requesting a binding decision under Art. 53.5 as to whether *Lerouxia* Mérat and *Lerrouxia* Caball. are sufficiently alike to be confused and thus should be treated as homonyms. In our opinion, such a treatment would be the best choice towards stability of nomenclature. Reversing the current situation would result in abandoning of the increasingly used name *Saharanthus*, which would create unnecessary nomenclatural confusion.

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