

## (1985) Proposal to conserve the name *Viola elatior* against *V. hornemanniana* and *V. stipulacea* (Violaceae)

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(1985) *Viola elatior* Fries, Novit. Fl. Suec. Alt.: 277. 1828 [*Dicot.*: *Viol.*], nom. cons. prop.

Typus (vide Danihelka & al. in Taxon 59: 1877. 2010): [Suecia], “Ölandia ad Allgutsrum 1824. E. Fries scripsit” (UPS No. 220505).

(=) *Viola hornemanniana* Schult. in Roem. & Schult., Syst. Veg., ed. 15 bis, 5: 370. 1819, nom. rej. prop.

Typus (vide Danihelka & al., l.c.: 1876): “*Viola montana persicifolia*; “Ex Horto Botan. Haun. 1800.” “HB HORN”, *Hornemann?* (C).

(=) *Viola stipulacea* Hartm., Handb. Skand. Fl.: 110. 1820, nom. rej. prop.

Typus (Danihelka & al., l.c.: 1876): “[Suecia, ins. Oelandia], Rstn [18]18”, “[Runsten] Ahlqvist” (UPS No. 220503!).

A nomenclatural and taxonomic analysis has shown that *Viola elatior* Fr. (l.c.) is a legitimate name and its type specimen taxonomically corresponds to the Euro-Siberian species usually referred to by this name (Danihelka & al., l.c.: 1869–1878 – this issue). However, there exist four earlier legitimate names, *V. montana* L. (Sp. Pl.: 935. 1753), *V. persicifolia* Schreb. (Spic. Fl. Lips.: [163]. 1771), *V. hornemanniana* Schult. (l.c., 1819) and *V. stipulacea* Hartm. (l.c., 1820), all of which apply with certainty, or with great likelihood, to the same taxon. Based upon the priority principle (McNeill & al. in Regnum Veg. 146. 2006), the earliest available of them should be

accepted as correct name for the taxon concerned. We are proposing the former two for rejection (Van den Hof & al. in Taxon 59: 1900 – this issue), making them unavailable for use.

The name *Viola hornemanniana* Schult. was published as an avowed substitute for the illegitimate *V. stricta* Hornem. (Hort. Bot. Hafn.: 958. 1815), non (Vent.) Poir. (see Van den Hof & al., l.c.). It was only rarely accepted as referring to a separate species (e.g., Steudel, Nomencl. Bot.: 885. 1821). More frequently *V. hornemanniana* was correctly placed in the synonymy of *V. persicifolia* (in the sense of *V. elatior*; e.g., Reichenbach, Iconogr. Bot. Pl. Crit. 1: 88. 1823; Reichenbach, Fl. Germ. Excurs.: 708. 1832; Dietrich, Fl. Boruss. 5: species 357. 1837; Reichenbach, Deutschl. Fl. [3–4]: 47, 163. 1839–1840). Later, to our knowledge, it disappeared from botanical writing and was replaced by the illegitimate *V. stricta*, treated as a synonym of *V. ruppii* All. (e.g., Koch, Syn. Fl. Germ. Helv.: 85. 1837) or as a species or subspecies of its own (e.g., Koch, Syn. Fl. Germ. Helv., ed. 2, 1: 93. 1843; Rouy & Foucaud, Fl. France 3: 8. 1896). Borbás (in Koch, Syn. Deut. Schweiz. Fl., ed. 3, 1: 209. 1890), in an account of central European species, included *V. hornemanniana* in the synonymy of his *V. persicifolia* (in the sense of *V. stagnina* Schult.) while Halácsy (Fl. Niederösterreich: 80. 1896) considered it a variety of *V. stagnina*. It was Becker (Violae Eur.: 63. 1910) who tried to reintroduce the correct interpretation of *V. stricta* and *V. hornemanniana* as referring to *V. elatior*; however, he retained *V. elatior* as an accepted name despite the priority principle. Gams (in Hegi, Ill. Fl. Mitt.-Eur.

5(1): 623. 1925) followed his view. A brief survey of Eurasian floras shows that *V. hornemanniana* is only rarely mentioned in the recent literature: it is then interpreted either as a synonym of *V. elatior* (e.g., Popescu & Sanda in Acta Bot. Horti Bucurestiensis, 1998: 124. 1998) or as a synonym of *V. canina* subsp. *ruppii* (All.) Schübler & Mart. (e.g., <http://www.tela-botanica.org/eflore/BDNFF/4.02/nn/72293/synonymie> or <http://www2.dijon.inra.fr/flore-france/vi-vz.htm>, both accessed 22 Aug 2010).

The name *Viola stipulacea* Hartm. was most probably published by mistake rather than as an avowed substitute for the illegitimate *V. stipularis* Fr. (Danihelka & al., l.c.). It is neither included in *Index Kewensis* (Jackson, Index Kew. 2. 1893) nor in the IPNI (accessed on 22 Aug 2010). Searching for it in literature, we have found only one instance of its use (Ahlquist in Kongl. Vetensk. Acad. Handl. 1821: 303. 1821), where it is cited from its locus classicus.

As stated above, we consider both names legitimate, and consequently, *Viola hornemanniana* as the earlier of both should replace the widely accepted *V. elatior* (for instances of its current applications see Van den Hof & al., l.c.) if the principle of priority is applied. However, the replacement of *V. elatior* by *V. hornemanniana*, in the past a repeatedly misapplied name, would be at the expense of clarity and would disturb nomenclatural stability for mere nomenclatural reasons, as would its replacement by the name *V. stipulacea*. Further, the latter

name is very similar to *V. stipularis* Sw. (Prodr.: 117. 1788), a name in current use (e.g., Robyns in Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 54: 82. 1967; Gargiullo & al., Field Guide Pl. Costa Rica: 398. 2008) and referring to a member of *V.* sect. *Leptidium* native to South America. Though it is unlikely for geographic reasons that *V. stipularis* and *V. stipulacea* will ever be treated in the same flora apart from a world-wide *Viola* monograph, this similarity is prone to cause some confusion, as it did in the past (Danihelka & al., l.c.). For these reasons we are proposing the conservation of *Viola elatior* against *V. hornemanniana* and *V. stipulacea*. A rejection under Art. 56 (McNeill & al., l.c.) would also well serve the purpose but as these names, in contrast to *V. montana* and *V. persicifolia*, have not been source of any serious confusion recently, we decided to use the option provided by Art. 14. This would retain both names available for those who may have different taxonomic opinions; however, as there are no taxonomic difficulties connected with *V. elatior*, concerning either its circumscription or infraspecific classification, such a situation is very unlikely to occur.

#### Acknowledgements

The research by JD was supported by the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic (grants MSM0021622416 and LC06073) and by the long-term research plan AV0Z60050516 of the Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences.