

International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and Type Method

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The basic concept of botanical nomenclature is explained with special reference to the change of correct name applied to a taxonomic group.

The scientific names of plants are given following the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, which is revised by action of a plenary session of an International Botanical Congress held once per every six years. Because the rules in the Code are retroactive unless expressed limited, the correct name for a taxonomic group must follow the latest edition of the Code.

As clearly indicated in the Principle of the Code, each taxonomic group with a particular circumscription, position, and rank can bear only one correct name. Therefore it is possible that the correct name is different when one of the conditions is changed.

The scientific names are given to the taxonomic groups. However, the application of names of taxonomic groups is determined by means of nomenclatural types as if the names were given to the types, to avoid confusion or replacement of the names by ambiguity. I will explain the basic concept of 'type method' in the nomenclature.

The important exception in application of the principle of priority is conservation. In order to avoid disadvantageous nomenclatural changes entailed by the strict application of the rules, a name can be conserved against some other names by special procedure. The conservation aims at retention of those names which best serve stability of nomenclature. I will show the procedure and some examples of conserved names.