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Neotypification of *Hybanthus longistylus* (Violaceae)

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ABSTRACT. Recent studies on South American *Hybanthus* Jacq. s.l. (Violaceae) revealed the need to select a neotype for the name *H. longistylus* Schulze-Menz, the holotype of which was destroyed in Berlin during World War II.

RESUMEN. Estudios recientes realizados en *Hybanthus* Jacq. s.l. (Violaceae) de Sud-América revelaron la necesidad para seleccionar un neotipo para el nombre *H. longistylus* Schulze-Menz, debido a que el holotipo fue destruido en Berlín durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Key words: *Hybanthus*, neotype, Violaceae.

Hybanthus Jacq. s.l. is a predominantly tropical and subtropical genus of Violaceae, with its highest taxonomic diversity in Latin America. The broadest revisionary work for this genus was published by Schulze (1936) and comprised nearly all South American taxa (ca. 35) described at the time. Recent and ongoing taxonomic studies (Souza, 2002; Seo, 2008) reveal that this group is still poorly known, and many new species are yet to be described. Typification is needed for the name *H. longistylus* Schulze-Menz, as its type was among those collections at B (Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum, Berlin-Dahlem) destroyed during World War II.

Hybanthus longistylus was described by Schulze (1934: 108) based solely upon a collection by Fiebrig, cited as “Paraguay: Cordillera de Altos, Loma. Oktober 1902. K. Fiebrig 273. Herb. Berol.” The specimen used by Schulze was most probably a unicate, since no duplicates have been found after extensive searches in nearly 80 consulted herbaria throughout the Americas and Europe. Personal searches by the authors in B confirmed that the holotype of *H. longistylus* was indeed destroyed during World War II. Due to the lack of existence of any original material and in accordance with the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (McNeill et al., 2006: Art. 9.9) a neotype is here designated.

Hybanthus longistylus Schulze-Menz, Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem 12(111): 108. 1934. TYPE: Argentina. Corrientes: Dpto. Concepción, Colonia Habana, rough grassland on high ground, sandy soil, 14 Nov. 1980, T. M. Pedersen 12955 (neotype, designated here, CTES; duplicates, C not seen, G, MBM).

Discussion. The neotype chosen here was collected in Argentina, near the border with Paraguay, in a region with a vegetation type similar to where the original specimen was found. Furthermore, and more importantly, the selected neotype exactly corresponds to Schulze’s (1934) original description, despite the morphological variability of the species complex to which *Hybanthus longistylus* belongs.

Hybanthus longistylus is distinguished by its opposite leaves and long style, which reaches up to 6 mm long. The taxon belongs to a complex group of species that are poorly delimited, especially in southern South America, where an astonishing diversity of form is found. In addition to this species, the group includes the opposite-leaved *H. glaucus* (Chodat) Schulze-Menz, *H. hieronymi* (Griseb.) Hassl., and *H. oppositifolius* (L.) Taub., with *H. glaucus* and *H. hieronymi* corresponding to the extremes of variability in this group, especially regarding leaf shape (elliptic and entire vs. lanceolate to ovate and serrate). Recent phylogenetic studies (Paula-Souza, 2009) suggest a close relationship among these species, as well as their close affinity with all other opposite-leaved species of South American *Hybanthus* s.l., four of which are also native to this area in southern South America.

The available data are still not sufficient for a critical treatment of this difficult species complex, which may also involve hybrid forms. According to Schulze’s 1934 description, *Hybanthus longistylus* differed from all related species by its long style to 6 mm, twice as long as the stamens. Preliminary morphological observations indicate that the flowers in *H. longistylus* also tend to be slightly larger than in

the related species *H. glaucus* (14–17 mm vs. 8.5–12.5 mm), but further and detailed analysis is needed in order to reach any definitive conclusion for synonymy.

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