

THE CORRECT AUTHOR CITATION FOR *CYPERUS ELEPHANTINUS*

Both Kükenthal in Pflanzenr. 101, 4, 20: 51 (1936) and Gordon-Gray in Ross, Flora of Natal 103 (1972) used the name *Cyperus elephantinus* C. B. Cl. (1895). However *C. elephantinus* C. B. Cl. is a *nomen nudum* and therefore illegitimate. The first validly published name given to the species was *Mariscus elephantinus* C. B. Cl. in Flora Capensis 7: 195 (1897), where a full description was provided. In 1909 C. B. Clarke in Illustr. Cyper. t. 20, figs. 1 & 2 again used the name *Cyperus elephantinus*, but this cannot be accepted as valid publication of the name of a new combination under *Cyperus*, since there is

no description or a reference to the basionym, *Mariscus elephantinus*. It was not until 1936 that the combination was validly published: Kükenthal (*l.c.*) published the combination *Cyperus elephantinus*, providing a full Latin description and citing *Mariscus elephantinus*. Although Kükenthal did not deliberately make the combination *Cyperus elephantinus*, it was nevertheless effected and should be accepted. The correct author citation is therefore *Cyperus elephantinus* (C. B. Cl.) Kükenth.

P. J. VORSTER