

CYPERACEAE

A NOTE ON *MARISCUS SUMATRENSIS*

For many years a species of *Mariscus* Vahl, which is widely distributed throughout Africa and Asia, has been known either as *Cyperus cyperoides* (L.) Kuntze (1898) based on *Scirpus cyperoides* L. (1771), or as *Mariscus sieberanus* Nees ex C.B. Cl. (1893). The combination *M. cyperoides* (L.) Urb. (1900) cannot be used, since it is a later homonym of *M. cyperoides* (Roxb.) A. Dietr. (1833), currently known as *Courtoisia cyperoides* (Roxb.) Nees. Several authors,

including Gordon-Gray in Ross, Fl. Natal 106 (1972) have expressed doubt that *M. sieberanus* is the oldest name available in *Mariscus* for such a widespread and common species.

In 1975 J. Raynal, in a report on plants collected by a Paris Museum expedition to New Caledonia published in *Adansonia* sér. 2, 15: 110, revealed that the name *Kyllinga sumatrensis* Retz., Obs. 4: 13 (1786) applies to the present species, and accordingly

he made the new combination *Mariscus sumatrensis* (Retz.) J. Raynal. Possibly because of the obscure context in which the combination was published, it appears to have escaped the notice of most botanists, including Koyama who independently came to the same conclusion as Raynal and made the combination

M. sumatrensis (Retz.) Koyama in Gard. Bull., Singapore 30: 154 (1977).

The correct name and author citation for this species is therefore *M. sumatrensis* (Retz.) J. Raynal (1975).

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