

POACEAE

THE CORRECT AUTHOR CITATION OF *HELICTOTRICHON* (POOIDEAE: AVENEAE)

The purpose of this note is to clarify the confusion in the literature regarding the author citation for the generic name *Helictotrichon*. Schweickerdt (1937), Chippindall (1955) and Dyer (1976), amongst others, give it as 'Besser ex Schult.'; Gibbs Russell *et al.* (1990), following Kew (e.g. Launert 1971), cite 'Schult.'; Watson & Dallwitz (1994) quote it as 'Besser ex Roem. & Schult.'; Tucker (2007) gave it yet another variation, namely 'Besser ex Schult. & Schult.f.'; Mabberley (1997, 2008) gave the author as 'Besser'; and this was followed by Fish (2000).

The genus name *Helictotrichon* is apparently a spelling variation of *Elictotrichon*, a name that first appeared in 1823 as part of the species name *Elictotrichon sempervirens* Besser ex Andrz. in a list of names (*Rys botaniczny* 1: 9) by Antoni Lukianowicz Andrzejowski, a Russian botanist of Polish descent who studied botany under Wilibald Swibert Joseph Gottlieb von Besser (Schweickerdt 1937). The name, however, was not accompanied by any description and is therefore a *nomen nudum*. Subsequently the name *Helictotrichon* was validated by J.A. & J.H. Schultes (1827) in *Mantissa systematis vege-*

tabilium 3. Addit. 1: 526 (in error as 326). These authors, without any comments, cited a letter by Von Besser in which he proposed a new classification of *Avena* and *Trisetum*, dividing these into a number of genera, one of which is *Helictotrichon* (Schweickerdt 1937; Sevenster & Veldkamp 1983).

Whereas *Systematis Vegetabilium*, vols 1–4 were co-authored by J.J. Roemer and J.A. Schultes, the *Mantissa* of 1827 was prepared by J.A. & J.H. Schultes (Stafleu & Cowan 1985). Therefore it is wrong to add Roemer as an author for *Helictotrichon*. As *Helictotrichon* Besser was validly published by J.A. Schultes & J.H. Schultes (1827), the correct author citation of the genus should be ***Helictotrichon* Besser ex Schult. & Schult.f.**

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