

Notes on African plants

VARIOUS AUTHORS

CELASTRACEAE

CORRECT ORTHOGRAPHY AND AUTHOR CITATION FOR *ELAEODENDRON*

Disagreement exists in the literature as to the correct form and author citation of the generic name *Elaeodendron*. Some sources refer to the taxon as *Elaeodendron*, with Jacq. f. (also abbreviated J.F. Jacq. or J. Jacq.) as validating author (Bentham & Hooker 1862; Loesener 1942; Brummitt 1992; Greuter *et al.* 1993; Green 1994), whereas others attribute the name to Jacq. or Jacq. f. ex Jacq. (Robson 1966; Villiers 1975; Proctor 1984; Robson *et al.* 1994). Kostermans (1986) argues that *Elaeodendrum* Murray (1784) has priority over *Elaeodendron* Jacq. f. (1787), and is therefore the correct name, a practice followed by, for example, Loesener (1907, 1926) and Britton & Millspaugh (1962). Jacquin f. (1787) introduced yet another variant by referring to the genus in the genitive case, namely *Elaeodendri*.

Elaeodendron was first published in 1782, without description, as a colour plate labelled *Elaeodendron orientale* and bound in the first volume of the elder Jacquin's three-volumed *Icones plantarum rariorum* (Figure 1). The colour plates of this work were issued in fascicles of 25, in an order unrelated to that in which they were eventually bound. The publication date and composition of each fascicle have been reviewed by Schubert (1945). *Elaeodendron orientale* (plate no. 48) formed part of fascicle 2 and was published in 1782. The text accompanying the plates of this fascicle was published a few years later, possibly in 1787 (Schubert 1945).

As source for the generic name *Elaeodendron*, the elder Jacquin (in both the text and plate bound with Vol. 1 of his *Icones*) referred to a then still unpublished manuscript of the younger Jacquin, intended for publication in *Acta Helvetica Physico-Mathematico-Botanico-Medica* Vol. 9. This series was apparently discontinued after Vol. 8 (Ingram 1966; Lawrence *et al.* 1968; Burdet *et al.* 1980), a deduction supported by the fact that no reprint of any further volumes has been found in Jacquin's library at WU, or anywhere else (Staffleu & Cowan 1979). Eventually, in 1787, the younger Jacquin's manuscript was published in the solitary issue of a new series, *Nova Acta Helvetica Physico-Mathematico-Botanico-Medica*, thus providing a description of *Elaeodendron*, albeit with the name in the genitive case as *Elaeodendri*. Although some workers (Farr *et al.* 1979; Staffleu & Cowan 1979; Howard 1989) proposed an earlier publication date (1780–1784) for this new series, evidence is overwhelmingly in favour of 1787 (Lawrence *et al.* 1968). Note, however, that some authors have erroneously attributed the contribution in *Nova Acta Helvetica Physico-Mathematico-Botanico-Medica* to the elder Jacquin, rather than to his son (Robson *et al.* 1994).

As was the case with the elder Jacquin, Murray (1784) had access to the younger Jacquin's manuscript and, al-

though not intending to publish the genus, provided a brief description of it under the name *Elaeodendrum*. Thus Murray's description of the generic name pre-dates those of the elder and younger Jacquin by about three years. Should Murray then not be credited as the validating author of the generic name for the taxon under discussion, as suggested by Kostermans (1986)?

According to Art. 42 of the Tokyo Code (Greuter *et al.* 1994), *Elaeodendron* should, despite the lack of a description, be considered validly published just on the basis of the colour plate in the *Icones plantarum rariorum*, Vol. 1, t. 48 (1782). This plate meets the requirement for valid



FIGURE 1.—Copy of colour plate of *Elaeodendron orientale* Jacq. published in N.J. Jacquin's *Icones plantarum rariorum* Vol. 1 (1782). Note name of taxon and reference to *Acta Helvetica* Vol. 9. Elongated leaves on juvenile branch are typical of species.

publication in containing an analysis (defined in Art. 42.4 of the Code as a figure or group of figures, ... showing details aiding identification,...') and a binomial appearing in print on it (Art. 42.3). The author citation of *Elaeodendron* is therefore correctly referred to as Jacq. (or Jacq. f. ex Jacq.). Recently, Brummitt & Powell (1992) proposed J. Jacq. as abbreviation for the younger Jacquin.

The elder Jacquin's 1787 text accompanying his 1782 plate of *E. orientale*, consists of a mere list of the parts of the illustration in Latin, but is, as in the case of the work of Murray (1784) and Jacquin f. (1787), irrelevant in terms of the Code. Arguments for accepting *Elaeodendrum* Murray as the correct generic name are therefore not valid. *Elaeodendrum* and *Elaeodendri* are to be treated merely as orthographical variants and should be corrected (Art. 61). Although the genus is often included in *Cassine* L. s.l., a stricter delimitation of the genera, including the recognition of *Elaeodendron* Jacq., has recently been advocated (Archer & Van Wyk 1993a, b).

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