

(1581) Proposal to conserve the name *Capparis cartilaginea* against *C. inermis* (*Capparaceae*)

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(1581) *Capparis cartilaginea* Decne. in Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot., Sér. 2,3: 273 (1835).

Typus: Egypt, Sinai Desert, 6. 1832, *Bové 148* (P, specimen marked as type by R. S. Raghavan, 11 Aug 1981; isotypus: K)

(=) *Capparis inermis* Forssk., Fl. Aegypt.-Arab.: CXIII & 100 (1775).

Typus: S. Yemen, Jebel Shamsan, Tower of Silence and vicinity, 150 m., 7 Jun 1987, *L. Boulos & al. 15560* (K, specimen marked in pencil "215-98").

Capparis cartilaginea Decne, is the name adopted widely in floras (Beentje, Kenya Trees, Shrubs & Lianas: 1994; Blakelock & Townsend in: Townsend & Guest, Fl. Iraq. 4: 139–145, 1980; Hedge & Lamond, in Rechinger, Fl. Iranica 68. 1970; Mandaville, Fl. east. Saudi Arabia. 1990; Migahid, Fl. Saudi Arabia. 1. 1988; Miller & Cope, Fl. Arab. Penins. & Socotra. 1. 1996; Miller & Morris, Pl. Dhofar. 1988; Post & Dinsmore, Fl. Syria, Palestine & Sinai 1: 108–110, 1932; Täckholm & Drar, Student's Fl. Egypt, 1956.; Thulin, Fl. Somalia. 1. 1993; Wood, Handb. Yemen Fl. 1997; Zohary, Fl. Palaest. 1. 1966.) and monographs (Zohary, Bull. Res. Council. Israel 8: 29–64, 1960) for a shrub, or small tree occurring widely in the drier parts of tropical and North Africa, the Middle East and southwest Asia as far as Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The species has also been referred to in recent publications as *Capparis sinaica* Veill. (Greuter, Burdet & Long, Med-Checklist. vol. 1. 1984; Boulos, Fl. Egypt, vol. 1. 1999). Previously it was known as *Capparis galeata* Fres. (Muschler, Manual Fl. Egypt. 1970; Boissier, Fl. Orient. 1. 1867; Fresenius in Mus. Senckenberg. 2(1): 103–168, 1837), a name now recognized as a later (1837) heterotypic synonym of *Capparis cartilaginea* Decne. (1835).

In a study of the typification of *C. cartilaginea* Decne., *C. inermis* Forsskål, and, *C. sinaica* Veillard (Rivera & al. in Taxon 52: 307–311. 2003) it was estab-

lished that *Capparis sinaica* Veill. (in Duhamel, Traité des Arbres et Arbustes, ed. 2, vol. 1. 1801), although it has been used in the sense of *C. cartilaginea*, becomes, after typification a heterotypic synonym of the earlier *C. aegyptia* Lam. It is not, therefore, in conflict with *C. cartilaginea* Decne.

However, although no original material of *C. inermis* Forssk. (Forsskål, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 1775) appears to exist, Forsskål's description of the species and the location in which it was discovered makes it virtually certain that it refers to the species generally known as *C. cartilaginea*. This identification is formalized by Rivera & al. (l.c.) neotypifying the name by a modern specimen from the original locality that is referable to *C. cartilaginea*. Hepper & Friis (The Plants of Pehr Forsskål's Flora Aegyptiaco-Arabica. 1994) noted that *C. inermis* was of uncertain identity and should not be adopted if it upset widely accepted nomenclature. However, now that the name has been typified and its application is clear, under Art. 52 it may not be rejected merely because another is preferable or better known. There is no doubt that replacing *C. cartilaginea* by *C. inermis* would be very undesirable and under Art. 56.1 any name that would cause a disadvantageous nomenclatural change may be proposed for rejection. With this procedure, however, a rejected name is banned totally from use and, because, within the species involved, there are populations of plants with spiny stipules and other populations of unarmed plants, it is desirable to keep available for use in a special, narrow sense the name *C. inermis* Forssk. for the unarmed populations.

Instead we propose formally the conservation under Art. 14 of *Capparis cartilaginea* Decne., a name widely used in the floras of East Africa, Arabia and the Near East, against *Capparis inermis* Forssk. This, we believe, will best serve nomenclatural stability permitting retention of this widely accepted name.