

A nomenclatural correction to *Flora Iranica*: Cyperaceae

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The name *Cyperus corymbosus* (L.) Rottb. as used by Kukkonen in Rechinger (ed.), *Flora Iranica* (Cyperaceae) 173: 95 (1998) is corrected to *C. corymbosus* Rottb.

Key words: botanical nomenclature, *Cyperus corymbosus*, *Flora Iranica*

Cyperus corymbosus Rottb. was described by Rottboell (1772) with an optional reference to *Scirpus corymbosus* L. (Linnaeus 1756). The specimen in Linnaean herbarium (LINN 71:48) represents, however, *Rhychospora corymbosa* (L.) Britton, and Rottboell's taxon cannot be based on this specimen, as erroneously given in Kukkonen (1998: 95). The reference to *S. corymbosus* L. by Rottboell (1772) was tentative, as indicated by the question mark, and a year later he (Rottboell 1773) definitely excluded the synonymy. Thus the name *Cyperus corymbosus* is solely to be assigned to Rottboell.

The protologue of *Cyperus corymbosus* (Rottboell 1772) clearly names a single specimen from India, Kerala ["In regione Malebarica"] by König as indicated with "K". A specimen by Rolander from Suriname thus cannot possibly be the holotype as given by Tucker (1994). Kükenthal (1935) indicates having seen the type specimen ["v. sp. auth.!"] and cites a König specimen: C-König, microfiche 4: 17–18! teste S.T. Blake April 1961.

Clarke (1893) and Kükenthal (1935) both use the name in the form *Cyperus corymbosus* Rottb. as all later workers almost without exception; Boissier (1882) uses the name *C. diphyllus* Retz. Hooper (1985) adds a note to exclude the synonym,

i.e. *Scirpus corymbosus* L., and excludes also the illustration by Rottboell (1773: tabula VII, fig. 4). Fainbrun-Dothan (1986) makes a point of the close resemblance of *C. corymbosus* to *C. articulatus* L., and Tucker (1994) finds it best to merge the two species; for the time being this was not followed in Kukkonen (1998).

Rottboell worked in close connexion with Linnaeus, and when describing new species often cited a Linnaean name as a synonym, which has led to confusions, e.g. in the case of *Kyllinga triiceps* Rottb. (Kukkonen 1995). If the above rationale for the assignment of *Cyperus corymbosus* to Rottboell is not accepted, the next available name is *Cyperus diphyllus* Retz (1789), with the existing type specimen from "India orientalis" by König (Kükenthal 1935).

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