Nomenclatural notes on *Juncus welwitschii* (Juncaceae)

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Nomenclatural notes for *Juncus welwitschii* Hochst. *ex* Steud. are provided and the name is synonymized with *Juncus bulbosus* L. subsp. *bulbosus*. Welwitsch’s exsiccate No. 324 is discussed.

Key words: historical collections, Juncaceae, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus welwitschii*, nomenclature, typification

The ‘*Juncus bulbosus* Synonyms Typification Project’ arose during studies on taxonomic variation of the bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus* L. (e.g. Proćków 2002, 2006). It was found that in his herbarium sheet No. 324 Welwitsch used the name *Juncus tricephalus*. However, *J. tricephalus* Welw. *ex* Nyman is a nomen nudum, since it was published by Nyman (1882) without a diagnosis. The name has never been validly published, because it was merely cited as a synonym of *Juncus welwitschii* (Greuter et al. 2000: Art. 34.1.c), and as such is illegitimate as superfluous when published, including the type (Greuter et al. 2000: Art. 52.1). Thus the name *Juncus welwitschii* Hochst. *ex* Steud. has to be regarded as the validly published and legitimate name (Greuter et al. 2000: Art. 6.5).


The labels of the sheets from P, TUB, K, G and FI contain the following information: ‘*Juncus welwitschii* Hochst. = *J. tricephalus* Welw. *in litt. non* Gay’, and the TUB label additionally: ‘*Juncus tricephalus* (nobis)’ and notes in German (see Acknowledgements) and Latin: “If it does not belong to *J. supinus* M. it seems to me absolutely different from all types, which are known. In the wet sand from the left Tajo bank. June 1840. leg. Welwitsch” and “*Juncus welwitschii* Hochst. intermedius inter *J. pygmaeum* Thuill. et *J. uliginosum* Roth (*supinum* Mönch); (*J. tricephalus* J. Gay *longicalis*).”

The herbarium sheet from LISU (Fig. 1) bears Welwitsch’s handwritten note: “*Juncus tricephalus* Welw. Flor. Extrem. mnpt. (Est probabilitae = *Junci uliginosi* forma. Welw.) Affinis *Junc. pygmaeo* Thuil., sed diversus.” “Unio itin. Essling. 1841. Herb. luso-extrem. No. 324”.

*Juncus bulbosus* L., Sp. Pl.: 327. 1 May 1753. subsp. *bulbosus*


*Juncus welwitschii* is synonymized here with *Juncus bulbosus* L. subsp. *bulbosus* (as generally understood at present), excl. specimen G 12606! Kirschner (2002: 162) synonymized it with *Juncus bulbosus* L., and Buchenau (1890: 292) with *Juncus supinus* Moench.

All the examined specimens agree to a considerable extent with the diagnosis of *Juncus welwitschii* Hochst. ex Steud. Most of them belong to *Juncus bulbosus* subsp. *bulbosus* as at present generally understood, but the specimen G 12606 belongs to *Juncus bulbosus* subsp. *kochii* (F.W. Schultz) Reichg. which has been lectotypified recently (Procków 2006). So the G 12606 sheet is excluded from the type material of the nominal subspecies.

It was also found that Welwitsch’s exsiccate sheets No. 324 give two ‘different’ localities: most of them give ‘in arena humida ad ripam Tagi sinistram’ (P holotype as well!; there was only one P sheet, never annotated with any type-label earlier) but the LISU sheet gives ‘In Extremadurae transtagarae humidis arenosis intra Coina & Azeitão rarius’. The latter locality was also stated ‘erroneously’ as the type (for the P sheet) by Kirschner (2002): ‘inter Coina et Azeitão’ (LISU sheet is not mentioned therein). However, for the P holotype it should be in fact: ‘in arena humida ad ripam Tagi sinistram’. On the other hand, based on the literature (e.g. Coutinho 1890) I found that the precise locality for exsiccate No. 324 is between Coina and Azeitão (Extremadura, prov. Setúbal) indeed. The better part of No. 324-exsiccate was not studied by Steudel personally but it should be also accepted as representing original material (Greuter et al. 2000: Art. 9.2, Note 2a). I consider that e.g. the sheet LISU P7749 should be regarded as isosyntype, since it bears the same exsiccate number (*Welwitsch, No. 324*), but not an exactly identical collecting locality. So it is a multiple preparation (Greuter et al. 2000: Art. 8.3), and the material from LISU is a separate sheet (not being part of a single specimen), which, depending on the interpretation, may or may not represent a ‘single gathering’ No. 324 (because of the ‘slightly different’ collecting locality). Furthermore, the sheet from W is regarded as isotype or isosyntype at present because there is no possibility to find from which locality it was collected.
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References

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