Nomenclatural notes on *Juncus supinus* var. *nigritellus* — a new synonym of *Juncus bulbosus* subsp. *kochii* (*Juncaceae*)

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The nomenclatural issues concerning *Juncus supinus* Moench var. *nigritellus* W.D.J. Koch nom. illeg. (non (D. Don) F.W. Schultz) are treated. The name is reduced to a synonym of *J. bulbosus* L. subsp. *kochii* (F.W. Schultz) Reichg.

Key words: Juncaceae, *Juncus*, nomenclature, original material, typification

Introduction

The ‘*Juncus bulbosus* Synonyms Typification Project’ arose during studies on taxonomic variation of the bulbous rush *J. bulbosus* L. (e.g. Proćków 2002, 2006a, 2006b, 2006c). *Juncus kochii* F.W. Schultz and *J. supinus* Moench var. *nigritellus* W.D.J. Koch (both at present best recognized as *J. bulbosus* subsp. *kochii* (F.W. Schultz) Reichg.) were recently lectotypified (Proćków 2006a). During my study on the nomenclature and variability of this rush I realized that Koch (1844) published new synonym of it, *J. supinus* var. *nigritellus*. However, the name is illegitimate (and thus cannot be used), and was not mentioned in the Juncaceae study by Kirschner (2002).

Koch (1837) initially erroneously identified *J. kochii* as *J. nigritellus* D. Don (synonym of *Juncus articulatus* L. subsp. *articulatus*); he clearly cited Don without the intention of publishing a new name (see also Kirschner 2002).

In this situation there was no evidence for the existence of the name *J. nigritellus* W.D.J. Koch (1837) non D. Don. Further evidence that it was not a later homonym, *J. nigritellus* W.D.J. Koch non D. Don (but just a misidentification *J. nigritellus* sensu W.D.J. Koch non D. Don) was that the varietal name is *J. supinus* var. *nigritellus* (D. Don) F.W. Schultz 1840, i.e. a new combination based on D. Don’s name though applied to Koch’s taxon (cf. Greuter et al. 2000: art. 7.4, Proćków 2006a).

However, in the second edition of *Synopsis Koch* (1844) published an auto-correction for *J. supinus* var. (“δ”) *nigritellus*: ‘*J. nigritellus* Koch syn. ed. 1., St. h. 78, non Engl. bot. [i.e. not D. Don *in J. E. Smith, Engl. Bot. Suppl. 1, tab. 2643 (1831)’]. In doing so, Koch in fact excluded D. Don’s type, hence the illegitimate junior homonym of *J. supinus* var. *nigritellus* (D. Don) F.W. Schultz arose, cited as *J. supinus* var. *nigritellus* W.D.J. Koch nom. illeg., non (D. Don) F.W. Schultz (see also Proćków 2006a).
So this paper re-examines the nomenclatural elements in the protologue of *J. supinus* Moench var. *nigritellus* W.D.J. Koch, based on characteristics mentioned in the protologue and authenticity of the material proven by the authors’ handwritten notes. Most of the features of the taxon (and its type locality as well) are included in Koch (1837), as in the protologue (1844) he cites his earlier publication.

**Original material examined**


B: Sumpfge Waldwiese und Rand der Gräben und des kleinen Waldbächleins an der sogenannt Mooswiese bei Mölschbach. 5 Sep 1843, HK, F. Schultz (L 106430 ex Herb. W. D. J. Koch!) — *Juncus supinus* δ. *nigritellus* mihi [2 plants];

C: An einem morartigen Waldahange am Stüderhof bei Kaiserslautern, s. d., Communicavit Koch, 1840, Herb. Zuccarinii No. 751 (M 10265!) — *Juncus nigritellus* Don [5 plants];

D: An einem morartigen Waldabhang am Stüderhof bei
Kaiserslautern. s.d., Koch (L 106423!) — Juncus nigritellus Don [2 plants];


G: E locis paludosis prope Studerhof. s. d., dedit Celeb. Koch, Comm. Clason (S!) — Juncus nigritellus Don [1 plant];

Some sheets bear no collection date (e.g. L 106423, L 106432 & Comm. Clason at S), but due to the determination J. nigritellus ‘Don’ or ‘Engl. bot. Suppl.’ it is almost certain that the material was collected prior to 1844! (see above: Koch’s auto-correction).

It is important (but was not stated in Proćków 2006a) that ‘Juncus polycephalus Hook. scot. 109’ [i.e., J. polycephalus D. Don ex Hook., Fl. Scot. 109. 1821] was mentioned as a synonym of J. supinus var. nigritellus W.D.J. Koch in the indirect reference by Koch (1837) to one of the elements of a new taxon. However, J. polycephalus is now recognized as a synonym of J. articulatus L. subsp. articulatus (Kirschner 2002) and thus should be excluded from the synonymy of J. supinus var. nigritellus.

In the material of Koch (seven sheets = six specimens and one duplicate, listed as A–G) there occur, clearly identifiably, the features of the diagnosis of J. supinus var. nigritellus. Even the fruits of L 106432 are immature, as stated in the protologue: ‘v. mir selbst, aber mit unreifen Kapseln, gefunden’. Thus all the examined specimens were good putative choices as lectotypes of J. supinus var. nigritellus, but I proposed to designate one of these specimens (L 106429!; Figs. 1 and 2) as the lectotype of both names (J. supinus var. nigritellus W.D.J. Koch and J. kochii F.W. Schultz). In this way I made the names homotypic (before lectotypification both names were not necessarily homotypic; see Proćków 2006a for more details). Schultz obtained the plants on sheet L 106429 from Böhmer (he did not collect them himself), but an additional, narrow, probably later added label bears the information ‘supinus nigritellus Schultz legit’. Obviously the specimen was also studied by Koch (Fig. 2).

The herbarium specimens of residual original material of J. supinus var. nigritellus are not syntypes, because in fact no specimens are cited in the protologue, only locality data, i.e., “In sylvarum montifusorarum locis uliginosis, (an einem sumpfigen Waldabhänge zwischen d. Stüderhofe u. d. Dorfe Mölschbach 2 Stunden v. Kaiserslautern)” (cf. Greuter et al. 2000: art. 9.4).

Comparative characters, based on the protologue of J. kochii, between J. bulbosus subsp. kochii and subsp. bulbosus in the flowers and fruits were shown in Proćków (2006a: table 1).
Bibliographic corrections

1. The combination ‘Juncus supinus var. kochii (F.W. Schultz) Syme’, cited e.g. by Buchenau (1890) and Kirschner (2002), requires a bibliographic correction, as observed by Hård av Segerstad (1923), since ‘The Journal of Botany 9 [not 11!]: 271 (1871)’, contains only a short note by J.F. Duthie (not Syme!), who in turn cited ‘Juncus supinus var. kochii Syme, E. B.” [i.e., English Botany, ed. 3B(10): 33 (1870)].


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References


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