

Publication of nomenclatural novelties

A protologue is 'everything associated with a name at its valid publication, e.g. description, diagnosis, illustrations, references, synonymy, geographical data, citation of specimens, discussion, and comments'¹. Therefore, without consulting a protologue it is difficult to arrive at a particular conclusion on the identity of a taxon.

William R. Buck (New York Botanical Garden) who is a renowned expert on mosses could not locate the protologue of *Fissidens arunii* Srivastava & Norkett² for his studies in spite of his best efforts. So, he requested K. N. Gandhi (Senior Nomenclatural Registrar, Harvard University) for help. Gandhi requested one of the present authors (S.B.) for the protologue. Requests were sent to almost all Indian bryologists, but everyone informed that they had not seen the publication². D. K. Singh (formerly with Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata) finally traced the protologue from Kanpur University after a sincere effort of nearly two months.

Rec. 30A.3 of International Code of Nomenclature¹ states that, 'To aid availability through time and place, authors publishing nomenclatural novelties should give preference to periodicals that regularly publish taxonomic articles, or else they should send a copy of a publication (printed or electronic) to an indexing centre appropriate to the taxonomic group. When such publications exist only as printed matter, they should be deposited in at least ten, but preferably more, generally accessible libraries throughout the world'.

We are of the opinion that authors publishing nomenclatural novelties should strictly adhere to the said recommendation and avoid those which are published in restricted and uncertain numbers, irregularly or not circulated in at least ten accessible libraries.

1. McNeill, J. *et al.* (eds), International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi, and Plants (Melbourne Code). Adopted by the

Eighteenth International Botanical Congress Melbourne, Australia, July 2011, A.R.G. Gantner Verlag KG. [*Regnum Veg.* 154], 2012.

2. Srivastava, J. P. and Norkett, A. H., *Proc. Bot. Soc. Kanpur (India)*, 1988, **1**, 55–57.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We thank Dr Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata and Dr P. V. Prasanna, Central National Herbarium, BSI for providing the necessary facilities and Dr D. K. Singh for providing us the protologue of *Fissidens arunii*.

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