



cultivated plant taxonomy**news**

Issue 5 ■ August 2017

The new ICNCP

Developments in
Neosinocalamus

30 YEARS OF
PLANT FINDER

Why cultivated plant taxonomy matters

James Armitage
EDITOR

Recently I was fortunate enough to be invited to give a talk on behalf of Hortax at a symposium in Berlin organised by cultivated plant conservation charity Netzwerk Pflanzensammlungen. It is gratifying that I have the opportunity here to thank my hosts for an enjoyable and illuminating few days.

As is so often the case when I meet people interested in cultivated plants, I was much impressed by the unshakeable certainty in the importance of their work shown by my fellow delegates. How, I asked myself, might this individual conviction be translated into a collective message that could advance the study and understanding of cultivated plants in all aspects of their diversity. The answer, of course, is simple: clear and consistent communication.

The study of cultivated plants takes many forms. Some people are interested in their classification, others in their cataloguing, characterisation or conservation. Diverse as these disciplines are, the reasons why they are practised and valued can be explained to the world in the same terms.

Biology. Plants in cultivation include unique biodiversity and genetic combinations unknown in nature, without consideration of which any biological system is incomplete.

Ecology. Globally, the majority of people now live in urban zones where cultivated plants are the dominant vegetation, forming ecosystems which are unquantified and providing ecosystem services that are unqualified.

Law and logistics. Like other man-made commodities, cultivated plants are retailed and

regulated, a process impossible without first distinguishing and enumerating them.

Culture. Cultivated plants are anchored to people, places and events and, as with other artefacts of human history, worthy of study and explanation.

There is every reason to believe that this message is already gaining understanding and acceptance and this issue of CPT News reports on some great progress for Hortax and the wider community of cultivated plant taxonomy. Projects in the pipeline include the relaunch of the Hortax website, the



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appearance of a first volume of the Journal of Cultivated Plant Diversity and the hosting of a second European Cultivated Plant Taxonomists' Forum, all major achievements for Hortax.

Also in this edition, Dr John David gives an update on changes to the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants and Marco Hoffman provides details of the publication of two works helping to standardise plant names in horticulture, while Junyi Shi, Yuxiao Zhang, Dequn Zhou and Jun Yao discuss five new cultivars of *Neosinocalamus*, as part of their exemplary work with the registration of bamboos. Please help circulate this newsletter by sharing it with your friends. ■

Membership is entirely without charge. If you would like to become a member of Hortax please contact hortaxgroup@gmail.com

News

Spectacular setting for VII International Symposium on the taxonomy of cultivated plants

Singapore Botanic Gardens is to provide the beautiful backdrop to the next International Symposium on the Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants in 2019. Details are yet to be announced but a more fitting venue to discuss the importance of cultivated plants than the renowned city within a garden could hardly be imagined. The VI Symposium was held in Beijing in July 2013.

New monograph on ivies

The second in a new series of monographs was recently published by the RHS. A rhapsody on ivies, *Hedera: the Complete Guide* explores the ecology, wildlife and environmental value, and innovative garden uses of this undervalued genus. Like *Kniphofia*, published in 2016, a complete checklist of cultivars is included. In total, over 2,000 cultivars, scientific names and synonyms are catalogued. The 12



species of ivy are each described, with photographs of their native habitats, and a key to their identification is provided. As well as the checklist, the monograph includes accounts of nearly 200 of the best cultivars, along with their versatile garden uses, each illustrated with photographs.

Next in the pipeline is a comprehensive guide to *Wisteria*, to be published in 2018. This monograph will explore the species, their cultural significance, their often tortuous introduction to cultivation and the stunning range of cultivars available. It will also include the most recent developments in molecular research on this genus.

Launch of new taxonomic journal

Cultivated plants are essential to human health and wellbeing. They are the means by which

the world is fed, they comprise the major habitat-type in the environments where most people now live, they are a source of energy, essential in construction, landscape management, leisure and amenity. However, the taxonomic work which allows us to understand this resource is without well-established outlets into the academic literature.

The requirement for a journal to meet this need has been recognised previously and in 2006 the first volume of *Hanburyana* was produced from within the Botany Department of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). A further six volumes of this journal were produced.

Four years after the last edition of *Hanburyana*, the journal is being relaunched as a joint venture between Hortax and the RHS as the *Journal of Cultivated Plant Diversity*.

Above. Gardens by the Bay, Singapore.
Photo. RHS / Stephen Bennett.



Though there will only be a small print run of each volume, the journal will be freely available to view online. Subject matter covered by the journal will include:

- ◆ alien plants of horticultural origin
- ◆ checklists
- ◆ concepts and theories
- ◆ crop plants including land races and crop's wild relatives
- ◆ cultivated plant floristics
- ◆ garden inventories
- ◆ lists of registrations
- ◆ lists of standard specimens
- ◆ monographic treatments of appropriate size
- ◆ new taxa
- ◆ nomenclatural housekeeping
- ◆ opinion pieces

Above. *Kniphofia rooperi*. The first ever checklist of *Kniphofia* was published in *Hanburyana*. Photo. RHS / Katy Prentice.

- ◆ proposals to amend the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants
- ◆ proposals to conserve names
- ◆ special edition conference proceedings
- ◆ studies on relationship and attribution

No fee will be charged to authors for publication.

If you do not receive copies of CPT News by email but would like to receive notification of issues of the *Journal of Cultivated Plant Diversity*, please write to hortaxgroup@gmail.com. If you would like further information about the *Journal of Cultivated Plant Diversity* or to submit a paper please contact the Editor in Chief (jamesarmitage@rhs.org.uk).

Visit the new Hortax website

A new version of the Hortax website is available now. More easily navigable and with a greater focus on news and events, it is the place to go for anyone with an interest in the classification of cultivated plants. The site structure has been simplified but retains all the information, advisory material and links to external resources as previously.

Please visit www.hortax.org.uk and link from your own website. If you have any comments or queries please send them to hortaxgroup@gmail.com ■

Recent Publications

Chase, M., Christenhusz, M., Mirenda, T. (2017). *The Book of Orchids*. London: Quarto.

Leslie, A.C. (2016). *The International Dianthus Register and Checklist*. London: Royal Horticultural Society.

Matthews, L.J. (2016). *Protea: A Guide to Cultivated Species and Varieties*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

McAllister, H., Marshall, R. (2017). *Hedera: The Complete Guide*. London: Royal Horticultural Society.

Rukšāns, J. (2017). *The World of Crocuses*. Riga: Latvian Academy of Sciences.

Changes to ICRA's

ALAN LESLIE

A number of changes to ICRA's have already accrued since the publication of the 9th edition of the Cultivated Plant Code (2016).

■ African Violet Society of America, Inc.

The fax number relating to *Saintpaulia* registrations is now (+1) 409 839 4329

■ American Hemerocallis Society

The registration page link should be revised to www.daylilies.org/DaylilyDB/regform.php

■ American Hosta Society

The email address for the Registrar, Gayle Hartley

Allen, should be changed to GiboshiGayle@gmail.com for queries, while for sending registration material please use hostaregistry@gmail.com

■ American Peony Society

The email for the registrar, Reiner Jakubowski, is now registrar@americanpeonysociety.org

■ Arboretum Kalmthout Foundation (*Hamamelis*)

The contact details for the Registrar, Abraham Rammeloo, should be changed to Arboretum Kalmthout, Heuvel 8, B-2920 Kalmthout, Belgium. Email: abraham.rammeloo@arboretumkalmthout.be

■ Beijing Botanic Garden has a new link to its registration page: (www.malusregister.org/Web).

■ Blahnik, Ing. Zdeněk (*Lonicera*)

The contact details should be changed to Jungmannova 564, 25101 Ricany, Czech Republic. Email: blahnik@post.cz

■ European Kalmia Society

The link to their registration page should be listed as www.kalmia-society.org/registrar.php?&lang=gb

■ Gesneriad Society, Inc.

The email for the Registrar, Irina Nicholson, is now gesneriadregistry@gmail.com

■ Heather Society

Registration contact details are now The Honorary Secretary, The Heather Society, 84 Kinross Road, Rushington, Totton, Southampton SO40 9BN, UK with an email of secretary@heathersociety.org

■ Heliconia Society International (*Costaceae*)

The contact details for the Registrar, David Skinner, should be changed to 1411 Lucy Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, USA. Email: Dave@gingersrus.com

■ Indian Agricultural Research Institute (*Bougainvillea*)

The contact details for the new Registrar, Dr S.S. Sindhu, should be listed as Registrar, International Centre for Registration Authority (ICRA) on Bougainvillea, Head, Division of Floriculture & Landscaping and School Coordinator, School of Horticulture, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (Pusa Campus), New Delhi-110012, India, with email sssindhu2003@yahoo.co.in

■ International Camellia Society

Note that this ICRA now has representatives handling



Left. *Lonicera standishii* var. *lancifolia* 'Budapest'. Photo. RHS / Carol Sheppard.



cultivars used as a source of oil and for those used for producing tea, as follows:

Oil cultivars – contact **Dr Li Jiyuan**, Research Institute of Subtropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry, No. 73 Daqiao Road, Fuyang, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, People's Republic of China. Email: jiyuanli@126.com

Tea cultivars – Tea Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Contact: **Prof. Liang Chen**, 9 South Meiling Road, Hangzhou 310008, People's Republic of China. Email: liangchen@tricaas.com

Above. *Passiflora* 'Justine Lyons'.
Photo. RHS / Tim Sandall.

■ International Carnivorous Plant Society

The list of registered cultivars can now be found at <http://carnivorousplants.org/cultivars/names.php>

■ International Cultivar Registration Center for *Osmanthus*

The postal address for the Registrar, Prof. Qibai Xiang, should be listed as **Room 7C-301/7C-303, Department of Botany, College of Biology and the Environment, Nanjing Forestry University, 159 Longpan Lu, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210037, People's Republic of China.**

■ International Maple Society

The email for the registrar, Peter Gregory, is now pgregoryuk@gmail.com

■ International Oak Society

The email address for the Registrar, Ryan Russell, should be changed to russellry76@yahoo.com

■ International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (*Nelumbo*)

The link to their registration page should now be www.nelumbolotus.com/en_login.asp

■ Lakeland Horticultural Society (*Astilbe*)

The new Registrar is **Malcolm Pharoah**, Lower Tithe Barn, Marwood, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 4EB, UK. Email: malcolmpharoah@gmail.com. The link to their registration page should now be www.nelumbolotus.com/en_login.asp

■ Meconopsis Group

The contact details for the new Registrar, Dr Geoff Hill, should be listed as **Cedar Gables, 33 Pencuick Road, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9LJ, Scotland.** Email: meconopsisregistrar@btinternet.com. The fax number should be deleted.

■ Morton Arboretum (*Ulmus*)

The new registrar is **Matthew S. Lobdell** (email mlobdell@mortonarb.org). The postal address remains the same.

■ Passiflora Society International

The contact details for the new Registrar, Robert Kennedy Rice, should be listed as **Old Walland, Brinkers Lane, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN56 6LU, UK.** Email: Registrar@PassifloraCultivars.org Registration Page: www.passifloracultivars.org/application

■ **Plumeria Society of America.**

The new registrar is **Mark Wright**, 28198 Carnoustie Drive, Missouri City, Texas 77459, USA (wright5447@sbcglobal.net).

■ **Polly Hill Arboretum**

This is now the ICRA for *Stewartia*. The registrar is **Mr Timothy M. Boland**, who can be contacted at **Polly Hill Arboretum**, P.O. Box 561, West Tisbury, Massachusetts 02575, USA (tim@pollyhillarboretum.org).

■ **Proteaceae Cultivar Registration Authority**

The email contact for the Registrar, Joan Sadie, should be changed to **JoanS@daff.gov.za**

The link to the registration page is now **www.daff.za/daffweb3/Portals/0/General%20Publications/The%20International%20Proteaceae%20Register%20%E2%80%94%202010.pdf**

■ **Royal Horticultural Society – Clematis**

The email address for the registrar, Duncan Donald, should be changed to **clematisregistrar@rhs.org.uk**

■ **Royal Horticultural Society – Conifers**

The contact details for the Registrar, Sharon McDonald, should be changed to **Ms Sharon McDonald**, 22 Route de Ruffec, 79110 Couture d'Argenson, France. Additional email: **sharonmcdonald@rhs.org.uk**

■ **Royal Horticultural Society – Dahlia**

The contact details for the Registrar should be changed as for Conifers above.

New ICRA

On 1 February 2017 the ISHS Special Commission for Cultivar Nomenclature appointed the **Epiphyllum Society of America (ESA)** to be the ICRA for *Schlumbergera* and *Rhipsalidopsis*. This is the first time these genera have been covered by an ICRA. The ESA have been ICRA for *Cactaceae* Tribe *Hylocereeae* since 1958 and will continue in that role. The new Registrar is **Lee Goodfellow**, 1120 Sunrise Drive, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia, Canada V9K 1C3 Email: **leegoodfellow@telus.net**

Lee has already prepared a draft Checklist for these genera. At the same time as making this appointment the Special Commission has designated these two genera as belonging to the same denomination class for the purposes of registration: in other words new cultivar epithets may no longer be duplicated between the two genera.

Revised denomination classes

Following recent taxonomic revisions the genus *Saintpaulia* is now treated as a section within the genus *Streptocarpus*. This change has been accepted both by the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), who have been ICRA for *Saintpaulia* since 1966, and by the Gesneriad Society who have had responsibility for the remainder of the family *Gesneriaceae* since 1958. The AVSA will thus now become the ICRA for *Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia* and the Special Commission has designated two denomination classes within *Streptocarpus*, one for *Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia*, the other for the remainder of the genus.

■ **Royal Horticultural Society – Lilium**

The email address for the Registrar, Duncan Donald, should be changed to **lilyregistrar@rhs.org.uk**

■ **Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture**

The address for the Registrar, Murray Dawson, should be changed to: **Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture**, PO Box 85012, Lincoln University, Lincoln 7647, New Zealand.

■ **St-Pierre, Dr Richard**

This ICRA (*Amelanchier*) has

now ceased to operate and the entry should be deleted. New *Amelanchier* registrations should now be directed to **Stefan Lura** (Stefan.lura@ars.usda.gov) at the US National Arboretum (Acting for the American Public Gardens Association, who are the ICRA for unassigned woody plant genera).

■ **Swedish Hoya Society**

This ICRA has ceased to operate and there is no longer an ICRA for *Hoya* cultivars.

New editions of the Lists of Names of Woody Plants and Perennials

Marco Hoffman is a taxonomist working at Naktuinbouw. Here he reports on the publication of two volumes that will help to standardise names of European garden plants.

IT IS A YEAR since new editions of the List of Names of Woody Plants and the List of Names of Perennials were published. In these new editions (2016–2020) more than 12,000 new names were added. In addition, there are dozens of taxonomic changes and thousands of cultivars to which indicators for plant variety protection have been added.

The two Lists of Names are composed by Naktuinbouw under the auspices of the European Nursery Stock Association (ENA) and the Internationale Stauden Union (ISU). The lists give the preferred names, synonyms and trade designations of almost 45,000 woody plants and 24,000 perennials. These are the official names of the commercial range of nursery stock in Europe and for the most part the United States. In total, the two lists contain 80,000 names.

The main purpose of the lists is to ensure international uniformity in the naming of these crops. The use of one name in the form of the preferred scientific name is the basis for this. If everyone uses this preferred name, it makes for better communication. Trade designations (including trademarks) can be added, but

always in combination with the preferred and identifying name.

The role of the ENA and ISU

The list of names of woody crops is supervised by the European Nursery Stock Association



Right. *Clematis* PETIT FAUCON ('Evisix'). Photo © Dorling Kindersley. Far right. *Eupatorium maculatum* Atropurpureum Group. Photo. RHS / Wendy Wesley.

(ENA), and the list of perennials by the Internationale Stauden Union (ISU). This makes them the international guiding lists in the nursery industry for determining the correct spelling and the preferred names of deciduous trees, conifers, fruit and perennials.

For the publication of the two lists of names, two working groups, one for each organisation, have been active. In both working groups are taxonomists / specialists and growers from several European countries, e.g. representatives from *RHS Plant Finder*, SCUD and Bund Deutsche Baumschulen.

The cooperation with these parties ensures a good balance of scientific / legal correctness and practical workability. Both international organisations highly recommend using these lists, since doing so will improve international communication and trade.

New names and indications of Plant Breeders' Rights

Both lists have been expanded from the previous edition due to increased activity in breeding and the internationalisation within the nursery sector. In total over 8,500 names of woody plants and more than 3,500 names of perennials have been added. These 12,000 names relate to more than 8,000 species and cultivars. Because more and more cultivars have extra trade designations or synonyms, there are more names than plants.



There is also intensive data exchange with various plant breeders rights' offices, such as CPVO in Angers and several national offices. This means not only that new names can be added, but also that the possession of Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) can be indicated. There are now more than 8,000 such cultivars. Since Plant Breeder's Rights can be added or discontinued, these should always be checked with the relevant national office. These sources have the current and legally correct information. The website www.internationalplantnames.com gives references to the websites of official registration authorities, where users can ascertain whether protection

still applies and, if so, for which countries and/or regions (e.g. EU, Netherlands, Germany, France or UK).

The need for changes to names

The challenge in preparing the lists is to position them in the field of tension between science, law and practice.

On the one hand, the lists must comply with internationally agreed scientific conventions, but on the other hand, they must be user-friendly for commercial purposes. Many nurserymen don't like changes to names because they have to update



Above. Since the splitting of *Aster* into various genera, New England asters such as 'Röter Stern' have been moved to *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*. Photo. RHS / Carol Sheppard.



Above. *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* 'Valentine', previously listed under *Dicentra spectabilis*. Photo. RHS / Jason Ingram.

their catalogues and labels and their customers may not know the new names.

After review and discussion within the working groups of the ENA and ISU, some 60 taxonomic name changes were introduced. Most relate to changes in crops with little commercial value. But some are quite substantial, such as the change of *Sophora japonica* to *Styphnolobium japonicum*. The website www.internationalplantnames.com contains a list of the taxonomic changes implemented.

Several radical changes have not yet been made because the horticultural industry is not ready yet. Examples are the splitting of *Aster* into *Symphyotrichum* and other genera, the splitting of *Eupatorium maculatum* and *E. purpureum* into *Eutrochium*, the change from *Dicentra spectabilis* to *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* and the change of *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* and *Cupressocyparis × leylandii* to *Cupressus nootkatensis* and *Cupressus × leylandii*. These new names have been provisionally recognised as synonymous. Often these names are already used by scientists and plant variety offices, and may become the preferred names in future editions of the lists.

Ordering copies of the lists

In the Netherlands the lists can be ordered via www.internationalplantnames.com. They can also be collected at Naktuinbouw in Roelofarendsveen and at several national nursery stock organisations. The list of names of woody crops costs €55, and the list of perennials €45. The lists are also available digitally.

The database containing the names of woody crops and perennials can be consulted at www.internationalplantnames.com. ■

The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants

A new version of the ICNCP was published in 2016. **John David**, Head of Horticultural Taxonomy at the RHS, notes some changes to be aware of.

AFTER A LONG gestation the ninth edition of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP) was published at the beginning of July 2016. This edition of the *Code* is the outcome of the decisions of the IUBS International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants made at the meeting held in Beijing in July 2013. At that meeting we were joined by a representative of UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants), Yolanda Huerta, as well as Jean Maison representing the CPVO (EU Community Plant Variety Office). Their input was most helpful in looking at ways to reduce the discrepancies between the UPOV Rules and the ICNCP and therefore provide a more consistent approach in the naming of cultivated plants.

As with the previous edition, it is published in the ISHS series, *Scripta Horticulturae*, and will be

made available online a year after publication (August 2017).

There were no major changes in the *Code* this time and a summary of the changes can be found in the Preface. What follows is a brief summary of some notable differences between the previous and present versions of the *Code*.

Trade designations

One of the key areas where changes have been made is around trade designations. In the statement of Principles of the ICNCP it is spelt out more clearly that such designations are not regulated by the *Code*, and this is laid out in Art. 13 and in Appendix X. A new note in Art. 2.22 (Note 7) states that a collective name given to a plant composed of different cultivars grafted onto a single rootstock is to be treated

as a trade designation. This will apply to multi-grafted fruit trees (such as “family trees” where more than three different cultivars are involved) as well as to the recent Egg and Chips® plant, the graft of an aubergine and a potato, marketed by Thompson & Morgan. The definition of a synonym has

Right. Names of intergeneric graft chimaeras such as + *Laburnocytisus* ‘Adamii’ are regulated by the ICNCP. Photo © Simon Garbutt.





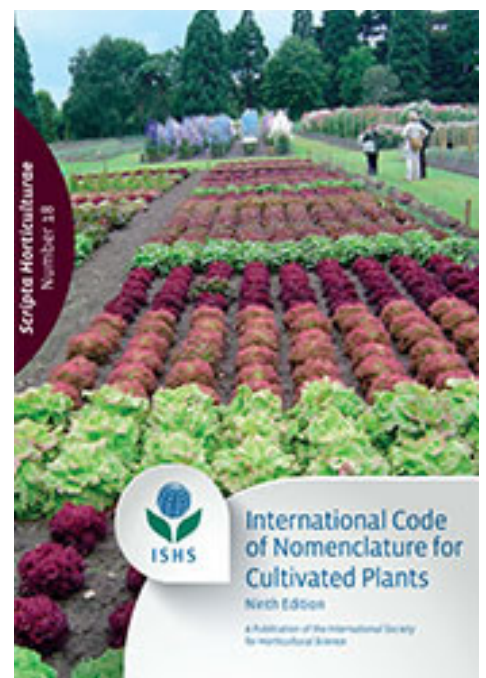
Above. The ICNCP aims to provide a stable method of naming taxa of cultivated plants. Right. The new Code. Photo. RHS / Justin Tallis.

been transferred from Art. 13 to Art. 11, the Article which defines accepted names, even though a synonym is not an accepted name. However, it was thought important to define synonyms with respect to accepted names and adopted names. The latter is a new term, introduced in Art. 11.3, for a cultivar name registered by a statutory registration authority that takes priority over a previously

existing accepted name under the ICNCP. The superseded accepted name becomes a synonym of the adopted name.

Series

Another kind of designation used for cultivated plants is the Series. These also are not regulated by the ICNCP (Rec. 22B.1), but a new provision is made for Series to be transposed into Groups where it does not cause confusion. This is most likely to occur where Series are defined using taxonomically meaningful criteria. In addition, Appendix X has been





Left. *Rosa* 'Madame A. Meilland', usually sold under the trade designation **PEACE**, hybridised by Francis Meilland in 1935.

Although trade designations are not regulated by the Code, there are provisions designed to accommodate their use beside cultivar epithets.

Photo © Roozitaa. Used under Creative Commons SA 3.

extended to provide guidance on handling Series designations for cultivated plants.

Chimaeras

Greater clarification has been given on chimaeras by introducing a new Article (Art. 5.2) to define the mutation chimaera as a separate entity from a graft chimaera. It may not be widely realised that names of intergeneric graft chimaeras are regulated by the ICNCP, not the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants* (ICN), which covers all other names at generic level (Art. 1.2). The text of the Code has been updated to make this more explicit. It is also pointed out (Div. V.1, Note 2) that names of graft-chimaeric genera do not have types or nomenclatural standards as they are defined solely by parentage.

Lineage

To address the problem of cultivars which have over time developed into a number of similar but distinct

forms, with the result that the original application of the cultivar name cannot be determined, the concept of lineage has been introduced. Different lineages may be distinguished by appending a device, such as the name of the originator of the lineage, to the cultivar name (Rec. 21N).

Code-form epithets

There have been some adjustments to the rules for the naming of cultivar epithets. It is now made clear that code-form epithets that differ by one character or numeral are allowed (Art. 21.25).

Transliteration and transcription

Further, the 30-character limit for cultivar epithets is extended to cases where cultivar epithets

that have been published in a non-alphabetic script are transliterated or transcribed into Roman script (Rec. 21K). Some problems arising from transliteration and transcription have been addressed, particularly that of "reverse transcription", with a recommendation that, whatever the demands of the transcription system used, the epithet returns to the original form of the words (Rec. 34A.2). In addition, where a cultivar or grex name appears in a publication in a language that uses a non-alphabetic script different from that of its original publication, the original, or Roman-transcribed, epithet should be used whenever possible (Rec. 34A.3). This is supported by a recommendation that when the epithet is derived from a language different from that of its publication the original word or phrase should be given (Rec. 27D.3).

Right (left to right). *Zantedeschia* 'Captain Lido', 'Captain Palermo' and 'Captain Solo', all part of the Captain Series. A Series (not to be confused with the botanical rank of series) is a marketing device for bringing together cultivars sold as seed, often where they differ by a characteristic such as colour. Photo. RHS / Joanna Kossak.

Publication

This edition has not implemented any major changes to cope with electronic publication, but the Commission agreed to set up a working group to formulate recommendations for the next meeting of the Commission. However, the *Code* does include a provision that registrations that are only published in electronic media can be made nomenclaturally effective by depositing two copies of the registration in a designated library (Rec. 25C). Also related to the work of ICRA is the requirement that a decision by an ICRA between two competing names must be fixed by publication of that decision (Art. 29.2). The rule that the date of a published but undated trade catalogue can be determined by subsequent research, and thus any new taxon in that catalogue be considered effectively published, has been extended to all undated publications (Art. 26.3). ■

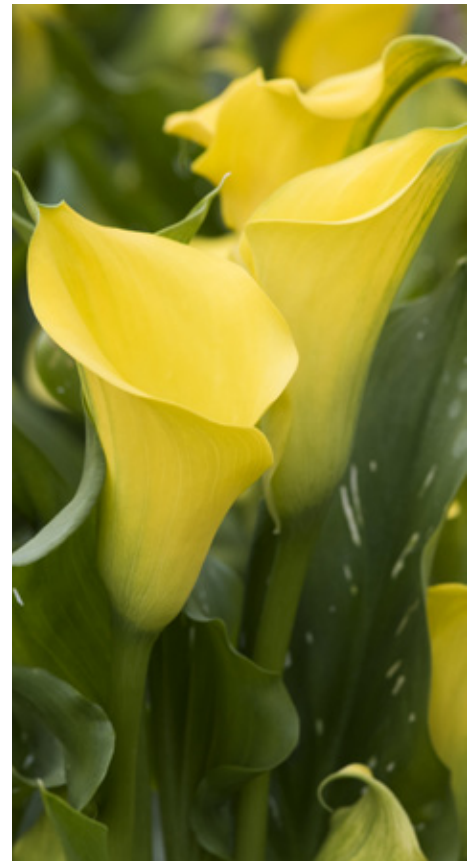
Chris Brickell

With the publication of the 9th Edition, the Chairman of the IUBS Commission, Chris Brickell (right), has announced his decision to step down as Chairman. He first joined the Commission in 1970 at the International Horticultural Congress in Israel, and has served as Chairman since 1979. He has overseen the publication of five editions of the ICNCP during his 37 years as Chairman, as well as steering the Commission through some challenging times. The Commission and the *Code* are much stronger and internationally recognised than when he took over and this is a great tribute to Chris's authority and careful custodianship. Following a vote by existing members of the Commission,



Dr John David has been announced as Chris's successor as chairman.

Photo: RHS / Neil Hepworth



What is RHS Plant Finder for?

RHS Plant Finder has been part of the British horticultural scene for 30 years, growing in size from just over 20,000 entries when it first appeared in 1987 (then published by the Hardy Plant Society) to nearly 80,000 in the current edition. Though still published as a book, since 2000 it has also been freely available on the internet.

The answer to the question of what ***RHS Plant Finder*** is for may seem an obvious one. At a basic level the book provides lists of plants and the retailers who offer them for sale. But this is only part of the story and ignores the work's other functions as a



30 years of RHS Plant Finder

John Grimshaw, Chairman of the Nomenclature and Taxonomy Advisory Group, which rules on controversial decisions affecting the listings in *RHS Plant Finder*, and **James Armitage**, one of the book's taxonomic editors, answer some questions about how it should be used.

nomenclator and as a census of plants in cultivation in the UK. In this latter regard *RHS Plant Finder* is self-limiting as, historically, a number of important plant groups have been excluded,

namely annuals, vegetables and non-hardy orchids and cacti. The listing is also restricted by what is offered (or rather not offered) by participating nurseries, while many smaller specialist nurseries,

and most garden centres, do not participate and thus both the rarer and commoner plants on sale may be under-represented. Despite these deficiencies, *RHS Plant Finder* is still by far the most

comprehensive, thoroughly researched and accessible set of names available for cultivated plants in the UK and this has led to its wide acceptance as a nomenclatural guide.

How are names in RHS Plant Finder listed?

To make best use of the nomenclatural information contained in *Plant Finder* it is important to understand the way in which the names are arranged and the principles which help inform the editors' decisions.

The book follows a simple alphabetical system, although in some entries a collector's code may precede an alphabetically listed name. To save space, when a taxon at the rank of species or below is repeated, the epithet is replaced by a dash. Cross-referencing is extensive but, for reasons of space, not comprehensive. Unless the cultivar name is unusable for practical purposes, trade designations are treated as synonyms.

In almost all cases the most complete version of a name available is used but it is important to understand this should not be taken as prescriptive of best practice. The book provides the maximum taxonomic information possible but users should feel at liberty to pick those elements of a name they find useful for their purpose. For instance, though taxonomically complete, the name *Cyclamen coum* subsp. *coum*



f. *coum* (Pewter Group) 'Maurice Dryden' is unwieldy. Under the rules of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*, renderings of the name as *C. coum* 'Maurice Dryden', *C. coum* (Pewter Group) 'Maurice Dryden' or simply *C. 'Maurice Dryden'* all have equal validity. It is not the job of *Plant Finder* to provide an immutable and unyielding nomenclature, but rather to set out a nomenclatural framework open to interpretation.

Taxonomy. Who decides?

Most of the editing of *Plant Finder* is undertaken by the Royal Horticultural Society's team of botanists but, particularly where changes may prove controversial, decisions are sometimes referred to the Nomenclature and Taxonomy Advisory Group (NATAG). This is a committee of taxonomists including representatives from horticulture, academia, cultivar registration and publishing who

Now in its 31st year, *RHS Plant Finder* puts gardeners and horticultural professionals in touch with suppliers of over 70,000 plants. Photo. RHS / Georgi Mabee.

deliberate potential taxonomic and nomenclatural questions, taking into consideration the particular needs of a primarily horticultural audience.

To help keep interested parties abreast of developments the conclusions arrived at by NATAG are now reported on the Hortax website (<http://www.hortax.org.uk/natag-decisions>). Recent decisions include splitting *Hylotelephium* from *Sedum* and the replacement of the familiar name *Elaeagnus* × *ebbingei* with the prior name *E. × submacrophylla*.

If you would like to suggest any further changes to names in *RHS Plant Finder* or think you have spotted an error, please write to the Compiler (plantfinder@rhs.org.uk). ■

Five new cultivars in *Neosinocalamus*

Since the International Cultivar Registration Center for Bamboos (ICRCB) was established in 2013, five new cultivars of *Neosinocalamus* Keng f. have been internationally registered. By Junyi Shi, Yuxiao Zhang, Dequn Zhou and Jun Yao.



1 *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Foducizhu'

REGISTRANTS. Tongpei Yi, Lisha Ma, Daoyun Wang, Jun Yao, Zhengyu Pu.

APPLICATION DATE. 3 January 2014

PRESERVATION PLACE. International Cultivar Registration Garden for Bamboos (Chengdu, China)

AUTHORISED DATE. 18 February 2014

REGISTRATION No. WB-001-2014-002

Description

Rhizomes sympodium. Culms cespitose, 8–13m tall, 3–8–(10) cm in diameter, the tip of culms arched and pendulous like a fishing line; basal internodes inflated like Buddha's belly; internodes 30–50–(60)cm long, the upper part with grey or grey brown setae when young, usually without white powder, sometimes a ring of pale white

Left. A clump of *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Foducizhu', with (inset) lower culms. Opposite. *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Niutuizhu'. Photos. Junyi Shi.

tomenta below basal sheath nodes, culm walls 3–6mm thick; culm nodes flat. Branching from upper nodes, branches many, clustered, without dominant branches. Shoots deep green; culm sheaths tardily deciduous, the top a little convex, with dense brown-black procumbent setae abaxially; auricles and oral setae absent; ligules together with fimbriate setae 10–15mm tall; blades reflexed, ovate-lanceolate, 2–16cm long, 1.2–5cm wide, the base narrowed roundly, with sparse setae at the middle of the abaxial surface and white setae at the adaxial surface. Branchlets with 6–11 leaves; auricles and oral setae absent; ligules 1–1.5 mm tall; petiole with pubescence abaxially; blades 8–28 cm long, 1.2–4 cm wide, the base round or broadly wedge-shaped, pubescent abaxially, secondary veins 4–10 pairs, transverse veins inconspicuous, margins serrated. Shooting period is from late July to August. Flowering usually from April to July with no fruiting. Culm walls are thin and are easily split and suitable for weaving.

2 *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Niutuizhu'

REGISTRANTS. Tongpei Yi, Lisha Ma, Daoyun Wang, Jun Yao, Zhengyu Pu

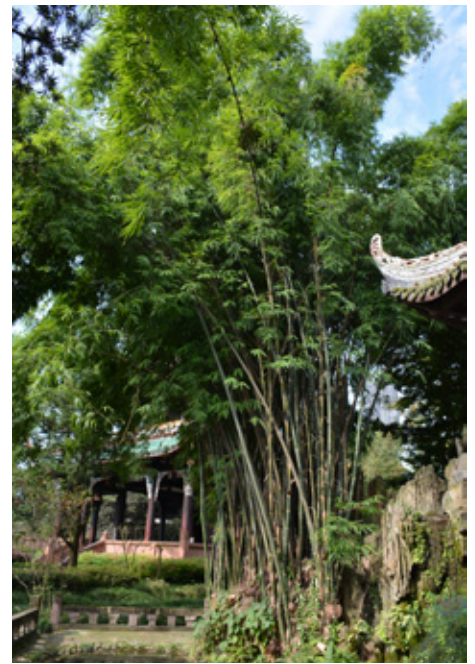
APPLICATION DATE. 22 January 2014

PRESERVATION PLACE. International Cultivar Registration Garden for Bamboos (Chengdu, China)

AUTHORISED DATE. 27 March 2014

REGISTRATION No. WB-001-2014-003





Description

Differing from *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Foducizhu' in basal internodes not being obviously ventricose, the base of the culm slightly inflated, and basal internodes zigzag-shaped. Culms can be easily split into fine splits with sharp edges. Culm walls are thick and brittle.

3 *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Shetouzhu'

APPLICANTS. Tongpei Yi, Lisha Ma, Daoyun Wang, Jun Yao, Zhengyu Pu

APPLICATION DATE. 25 February 2014

PRESERVATION PLACE. International Cultivar Registration Garden for Bamboos (Chengdu, China)

AUTHORISED DATE. 3 April 2014

REGISTRATION No. WB-001-2014-004

Left. Culms and (above) clump of *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Shetouzhu'. Photos. Junyi Shi.



Above. Clump (left) and culms of *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Doupengzhu'.
Photos. Junyi Shi.

Description

Differing from *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Foducizhu' in basal internodes not being obviously ventricose, but a little bent, gradually thinner below the fourth or fifth node (c.1m tall above the ground). Culm walls are thin, easily split, splits pliable, suitable for fine weaving.

4 *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Doupengzhu'

APPLICANTS. Tongpei Yi, Lisha Ma, Daoyun Wang, Jun Yao, Zhengyu Pu

APPLICATION DATE. March 02, 2014

PRESERVATION PLACE. International Cultivar Registration Garden for Bamboos (Chengdu, China)

AUTHORISED DATE. 22 May 2014

REGISTRATION No. WB-001-2014-005

Description

Differing from *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Foducizhu' in basal internodes not ventricose, internodes longer than the ones of *Neosinocalamus affinis* 'Foducizhu', and usually longer than 60cm, up to 85cm long. Culms are suitable for weaving and used for making cloaks, bamboo mats and bamboo fans.

5 *Neosinocalamus fangchengensis* 'Meiling'

APPLICANTS. Meiling Dai, Lisha Ma, Guichun Gao, JunYao, Dehua Zhai

APPLICATION DATE. 18 June 2016

PRESERVATION PLACE. International Cultivar Registration Gardens for Bamboos (Nanyang, China)

AUTHORISED DATE. 9 August 2016

REGISTRATION No. WB-001-2016-016

Description

Cespitose bamboos. Culms 12–14m tall, 3–4cm in diameter, the top pendulous; internodes 41–43, 40–44cm long, the basal



Branches (above), culm (right) and leaves (inset) of *Neosinocalamus fangchengensis* 'Meiling'. Photos. Junyi Shi.

internodes 20cm long, terete, initially with white powder, internodes at the middle and base of the culm with light yellow stripes, culm walls thin, 2–4–(5)mm thick; sheath nodes prominent, purple-brown, glabrous; culm nodes flat; intranodes 2–3mm tall, glabrous, with white powder. Buds almond-shaped, glabrous. Branching from upper nodes, branches many, spreading, dominant branches to 1.7m long, 4–5mm in diameter, lateral branches slender, 1–2mm in diameter. Shoots light green, with sparse brown setae and yellow stripes. Culm sheaths deciduous, leathery, shorter than internodes, with sparse brown setae and yellow stripes; auricles absent; ligules truncate, initially purple, 2–2.5mm tall, oral setae dense, flat, initially purple brown, 5–12mm long; blades linear or linear-triangular, 8–18cm long, reflexed.

Leaves 8–13 per branchlet; sheaths purple-green to green, glabrous; auricles and oral setae absent; ligules arched, purple brown, glabrous, 1.5mm tall; petioles light green, glabrous, 1.5–2mm long; blades linear-lanceolate, 16–25cm long, 2.6–4cm wide. Shooting from July to August.

This cultivar was cultivated from the individuals of *Neosinocalamus fangchengensis* Yi & J.Y. Shi which have light yellow stripes on the culms. Bamboo shoots and fresh culm sheaths are also with brown and green stripes. This cultivar has great ornamental value. It grows well down to a temperature of -5° , and it can be planted where the climate is suitable in the northern and central regions of China, especially regions near Han River, for ornamentation and bonsai. ■

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CPT News

CPT News is circulated free of charge worldwide to over a thousand botanic gardens, institutions, libraries and individuals with an interest in cultivated plant taxonomy. It is a great way of publicising your work and stimulating interest in the classification of the plants that we grow. If you have a news story or article that you would like to contribute, please contact James Armitage (jamesarmitage@rhs.org.uk).

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About Hortax

Hortax, formed in 1988, is a small committee of European plant taxonomists and horticulturists with a professional interest in the classification and nomenclature of cultivated plants.

The committee meets to discuss topics of relevance to the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP) and seeks to find solutions to the plentiful problems presented by humanity's attempts to classify the plants it grows.

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