Fissidens biformis, an older name for F. angustifolius (Bryophyta, Fissidentaceae)

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**Fissidens biformis**, an older name for *F. angustifolius* (Bryophyta, Fissidentaceae)

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*Fissidens angustifolius* is subsumed under *F. biformis* and *F. coorgensis* under *F. zollingeri*. It appeared that *F. biformis* sensu Gangulee et Eddy is *F. zollingeri*.

**Taxonomic changes**: *Fissidens biformis* Mitt. (= *F. angustifolius* Sull.), *F. zollingeri* Mont. (= *F. coorgensis* Broth.; = *F. biformis* sensu Gangulee (1971) et Eddy (1988)).

*Fissidens angustifolius* Sull. and *F. zollingeri* Mont. are well-known pantropical limbate species characterized by limbidia reaching the leaf apex and the insertion of the dorsal lamina, small, but distinct axillary nodules, large, inflated juxta-costal vaginant laminal cells, stems that are often frondiform, but can have pinnately arranged leaves and subgenus *Aloma* sporophytes i.e. with 32 columns of exothecial cells and a scariosus type of peristome. They differ in the laminal cells, those of *F. angustifolius* are mammillose, those of *F. zollingeri* smooth.

References to *F. biformis* Mitt. are confusing. The species was described by Mitten and reduced to *F. zollingeri* Mont. by Fleischer (1901), but was retained as species next to *F. zollingeri* by Gangulee (1971) and Eddy (1988).

Gangulee l.c. listed *F. coorgensis* Broth. as synonym of *F. biformis*. Iwatsuki and Suzuki (1982) did not include *F. biformis*, but in a note with *F. zollingeri* state that its type specimen has unipapillose cells. This note went probably unobserved by Eddy (1988) who described *F. biformis* as smooth-celled and listed *F. coorgensis* Broth. as synonym. The purpose of the present research was to establish whether *F. zollingeri*, *F. biformis* and *F. coorgensis* are conspecific. Iwatsuki & Suzuki’s observation that the laminal cells of the type of *F. biformis* are unipapillose (strictly speaking they are highly mammillose) was confirmed. Consequently this species is conspecific with *F. angustifolius* rather than with *F. zollingeri* which has smooth, plane laminal cells. The name *F. biformis* has priority. Examination of the type of *F. coorgensis* showed that it has smooth cells and is *F. zollingeri*.

According to the descriptions by Gangulee l.c. and Eddy l.c. *F. biformis* has smooth laminal cells. This suggests that *F. biformis* sensu these authors is *F. zollingeri*. This is supported by the fact that all synonyms cited by these authors, viz. *F. coorgensis* and *F. xiphioides* M. Fleisch. are *F. zollingeri*, too.


*F. angustifolius* Sull., Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 5: 275. 1861 - Type: CUBA, wet places on the ground in dense woods; distributed as Sullivant, Musci Cubensis 18 (holotype: FH (not seen), isotypes BM (not recently seen), NY (not recently seen). According to Pursell (2007) several packets contain only *F. zollingeri* Mont.; this appeared to be true for the L-specimen). – syn. nov.


References


