Sonchus esperanzae, nom. nov. (Compositae, Cichorieae)

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Abstract


A new name in Sonchus is validated for Wildpretia beltraniae (non Sonchus ×beltraniae). The typification of both names is discussed, as it reflects on their valid publication, which is confirmed.

Morphological, anatomical and molecular studies (Aldridge 1976, 1977, 1978, Kim & al. 1996a-b, 1999a-b) have shown that the “woody Sonchus alliance” of the “Macaronesian” islands descends from a common ancestor but is nested within Sonchus. By consequence, the former genera Atalanthus D. Don (= Taeckholmia Boulos), Babcockia Boulos, Lactuconchus (Sch. Bip.) Svent. (= Wildpretia U. Reifenb. & A. Reifenb.) and Sventenia Font Quer are best included in Sonchus, along with S. subg. Dendrosonchus Sch. Bip. Such new combinations as were required have recently been validated by us (in Greuter 2003: 265) for use in the Compositae treatment of the Euro+Med Checklist (in preparation). However, when transferring Wildpretia beltraniae U. Reifenb. & A. Reifenb. to Sonchus we overlooked the existence of an older homonym, Sonchus ×beltraniae U. Reifenb. & A. Reifenb.

Katherine Challis (Kew), in writing, kindly pointed out this fact, and at the same time raised the question of valid publication of the names. Indeed, the type citation in the protologues of Wildpretia beltraniae and Sonchus ×beltraniae is puzzling. In both cases the holotype, while cited under a single TFC accession number, is said to consist of flowering and fruiting material collected on two different dates. If this were so, then the alleged holotype would consist of two gatherings and would not qualify as a specimen (ICBN, Art. 8.1-2). Under ICBN Art. 37.1-2, neither name would then be validly published, and the same would be true of our intended new combination.

Following an enquiry at TFC, Pedro Pérez de Paz and Juan Acebes kindly supplied the following information.

TFC 28290, the designated holotype of Wildpretia beltraniae, is a single sheet with a plant in flower and fruit, collected on 4 May 1989. The so-called isotypes are not in G and K as stated in
the protologue, having been retained in TFC. They were both collected on 30 May 1988, and neither bears a TFC number; they are actually paratypes (ICBN, Art. 8.5 and 9.8).

TFC 28789, the designated holotype of Sonchus ×beltraniae, is a single specimen mounted on two sheets (ICBN Art. 8.3). One sheet bears the flowering and fruiting portion of a single plant, the other the vegetative basal portion of the same. According to the manuscript field label the specimen was collected on 20 January 1988. The second date mentioned in the protologue (28 April 1988) appears on the typed label, but is obviously erroneous. There exists no separate, fruiting specimen collected on the later date, as the protologue pretends.

Consequently, both Wildpretia beltraniae and Sonchus ×beltraniae are validly published names, and our new combination, while equally validly published, is an illegitimate junior homonym, for which a new name is required:

**Sonchus esperanzae** N. Kilian & Greuter, nom. nov.


The epithets esperanzae and beltraniae both honour Esperanza Beltrán Tejera, competent and charming botanist-mycologist at the Department of Plant Biology, University of La Laguna, Tenerife (TFC).

**References**


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