

## A NOMENCLATURAL COMMENT ON *HOMALOTHECIUM AENEUM* (BRACHYTHECIACEAE)

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As a result of detailed biometrical investigations of some critical complexes of species in the genus *Homalothecium* Schimp., Hofmann (1997) convincingly showed that two species, *H. aeneum* (Mitt.) E. Lawton and *H. nevadense* (Lesq.) Renauld & Cardot, do not merit recognition as separate species but should be considered as subspecies within one species. Although taxonomically such a concept is entirely acceptable, it is inadmissible nomenclaturally in the form proposed by Hofmann (1997, 1998). The two subspecies are subordinate taxa, and according to Art. 25 of the Code (McNeill *et al.* 2006) the final name applies to the species in its entirety. In this case *H. nevadense* subsp. *aeneum* (Mitt.) Heik. Hofm. is illegitimate since the infraspecific epithet was transferred from an older name to a younger one.

*Hypnum aeneum* Mitt., the basionym of *Homalothecium nevadense* subsp. *aeneum*, was published in 1864 (Mitten 1864), whereas *Hypnum nevadense* Lesq., the basionym of *Homalothecium nevadense* subsp. *nevadense* appeared four years later (Lesquereux 1868). In order to preserve the current usage and status of these two taxa presented in the revision of the genus *Homalothecium* (Hofmann 1998), the following nomenclatural change is necessary.

***Homalothecium aeneum* (Mitt.) E. Lawton subsp. *aeneum***

Bull. Torrey Bot. Club **92**: 351. 1965 ≡ *Hypnum aeneum* Mitt., J. Linn. Soc. Bot. **8**: 31, f. 5. 1864 ≡ *Camptothecium aeneum* (Mitt.) A. Jaeger, Ber. Thätigk. St. Gallischen Naturwiss. Ges. 1876–1877: 315. 1878 ≡

*Homalothecium nevadense* (Lesq.) Renauld & Cardot subsp. *aeneum* (Mitt.) Heik. Hofm., J. Bryol. **19**: 481. 1997, *nom. illeg. prior ut spec.* TYPE CITATION: Pend Oreille River, British Columbia, Lyall.

***Homalothecium aeneum* (Mitt.) E. Lawton subsp. *nevadense* (Lesq.) Ochyra, *stat. et comb. nov.***

BASIONYM: *Hypnum nevadense* Lesq., Mem. Calif. Acad. Sci. **1**: 33. 1868 ≡ *Homalothecium nevadense* (Lesq.) Renauld & Cardot, Bot. Gaz. **13**: 202. 1888 ≡ *Camptothecium nevadense* (Lesq.) Macoun & Kindb., Cat. Canad. Pl. Musci: 188. 1892. TYPE CITATION: On rocks in the spray of Nevada and Bridal Veil Falls, Bol[ander].

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I thank Arthur Copping (Roydon, Diss, UK) for reviewing the English. This study was partly financed through the statutory fund of the Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences and it also gained financial support from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education through grant No. N N 303 469 338 for the author.

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Received 10 June 2011