

ROELLOBRYON OCHYRA, A NEW NAME FOR ROELLIA KINDB., HOM. ILLEG.

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The generic name *Roellia* was established by Kindberg (1897). It commemorates the German bryologist Julius Röhl (1846–1928) who collected bryophytes in North America and actually discovered the only species belonging within that genus, *Roellia roellii* (Broth.) H. A. Crum. In fact, a year earlier Kindberg (1896) suggested recognising *Roellia* as a separate genus or as a subgenus of *Mnium* Hedw. for two species, *Mnium simplex* Kindb., *hom. illeg.* and *M. lucidum* (Broth.) Kindb. However, due to the lack of any description, neither of these names was validly published.

A year after the description of *Roellia*, Kindberg (1898) formally placed in this genus the two aforementioned species, *R. simplex* Kindb. and *R. lucida* (Broth.) Kindb. Surprisingly, although the genus *Roellia* was thoroughly discussed by Crum (1967), he failed to lectotypify the generic name and until now it remains not lectotypified. Herein, *Roellia simplex* is selected as lectotype, but practically this has no meaning since the two species originally placed in that genus are considered to be conspecific (Andrews 1940; Crum 1967).

Roellia occupies an intermediate position between the families Bryaceae and Mniaceae in having, among other things, the unique peristomial formula 4:2:10–14 and up to six nodose cilia, prompting Spence (2009) to recognise a monotypic family to accommodate it.

Unfortunately, to the aforementioned problems associated with the taxonomy of *Roellia* must be added a serious nomenclatural problem. The name *Roellia* is not available for this distinctive moss genus since it must be treated as an orthographic

variant and a later homonym of *Roella*, after the examples of orthographic variants in Art. 53.3 of the Code (McNeill *et al.* 2006), namely *Eschweilera* and *Eschweilera* (*Ex. 1*) and *Phyllogonum* and *Phyllogonium* (*Ex. 12*).

Roella L. is an endemic South African genus of the Campanulaceae comprising 21 species occurring in the Western Cape (Adamson 1952; Welman & Cupido 2003; Cupido 2010), named in honor of the Dutch anatomist G. Roelle by Linnaeus (1753) in *Species plantarum*. It is worth noting that in *Hortus cliffortianus* Linnaeus (1737) used the orthographic variant *Roellia* for this genus, but changed it in *Species plantarum* (Linnaeus 1753). Because the name *Roella* is in common use, its recognition as a *nomen rejiciendum* is out of the question. Therefore retention of *Roellia* Kindb. as a younger and illegitimate homonym is unjustified. Consequently, the name *Roellobryon* is proposed as its replacement.

Roellobryon* Ochyra, *nom. nov.

TYPONYM: *Roellia* Kindb., Gen. Eur. N.-Amer. Bryin.: 37. 1897 [*Roellia* Kindb., Rev. Bryol. 23: 22. 1896, *nom. nud.*; *Mnium* Hedw. subgen. *Roellia* Kindb., Rev. Bryol. 23: 22. 1896, *nom. nud.*]; non *Roella* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 170. 1753 (Campanulaceae). LECTOTYPE (selected here): *Roellia simplex* Kindb. (*Bryum simplex* Kindb., *hom. illeg.*; *Mnium simplex* Kindb., *hom. illeg.*) [= *Roellobryon roellii* (Broth.) Ochyra].

Roellobryon roellii* (Broth.) Ochyra, *comb. nov.

BASIONYM: *Mnium roellii* Broth. in Röhl, Bot. Centralbl. 44: 420. 1890 = *Roellia roellii* (Broth.) A. L. Andrews

ex H. A. Crum, *Bryologist* **70**: 170. 1967 [*Roellia roellii* (Broth.) A. L. Andrews in Grout, *Moss Fl. N. Amer.* **2**(4): 240. 1940, *nom. inval.* (Art. 34.1.b)].

Roellobryaceae Ochyra, *nom. nov.*

TYPONYM: Roelliaceae J. R. Spence, *Phytologia* **91**: 496. 2009. TYPE: *Roellia* Kindb. (\equiv *Roellobryon* Ochyra).

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