

Principles of priority and its limitations

Principles of priority:

- (i) Each family or taxon of lower rank with a particular circumscription, position and rank can bear only one correct name (Art. 11).
- (ii) For any taxon from family to genus comprehensive, the correct name is the earliest rightful one, validly published with the same rank (Art. 11).
- (iii) A name of a taxon has no status under this code unless it is a validly published (Art. 12).
- (iv) The application of both conserved and rejected names is determined by nomenclatural type (Art. 14).
- (v) “When a name proposed for conservation has been provisionally approved by the general committee, botanists are authorized to retain it pending the decision of a later International Botanical Congress”.

Valid Publication of names is usually considered beginning in May 1753, the date of publication of **Species plantarum vol. I** by Linneaus.

The principle that superiority is fixed by the date of valid publication is known as Principle of Priority.

Example 1:

Nymphaea nouchali Burm F. 1768; *N. Pubescence* Willd 1799 and *N. torus* Hook T; 1872 are names of the same species but if rule of Priority is applied the first name is the correct name and other two are synonyms.

Example 2:

Loureiro described a plant and named it *Physkium nataus* in 1790. A.L.de Jussieu transferred it in genus *Vallisneria* in 1828. He instead of nutans gave the specific name as *V. physkium*. It is superfluous name. Graebner (1912) described the same plants as *V.gigantee* and Miki (1934) named as *V.asiatica*. Harg while studying Asiatic species confirmed that all these names are synonymous.

There is no legitimate combination based on *Physikium natans* (Lerou) existed. He made *V. natans* Hara in 1974. The correct name of the specimen is now the recent name, but it is based on earliest basionym, others will be synonym. *V. gigantea* and *V. asiatica* will be known as nomenclatural synonyms or homotypic synonyms. *V. gigantea* and *V. asiatica* are the names based on separate types. Such synonyms are known as taxonomic synonyms or heterotypic synonyms.

Limitations of Principles of Priority:

1. Starting dates:

Principles of Priority starts with the **Species Plantarum** of Linnaeus published on 1-5-1753.

2. Limited only upto family ranks:

This principle does not apply over family rank.

3. The corrected name should not be outside the rank. Only when a correct name in the taxon is not available, a combination with other rank is allowed.

4. The application of Principles of Priority resulted in numerous name changes. To avoid it a list of conserved generic and family names has been prepared and Published in the code with some changes. Such *Nomina conservanda* (non. cons) are to be used as correct name replacing earlier legitimate name, e.g., *Sesbania scop*, 1777 is the conserved genus as against *Sesbania adam* 1763 and *Agati adam* 1763.

Rejection of Names:

The rules for rejection of names are:

(i) Nomen nudum (nom. nud):

Name without description, without typification and Latin diagnosis etc. is rejected.

(ii) Tautonym:

Botanical nomenclature does not allow tautonym (repetition of generic name), e.g., *Malus malus*. Repetition of specific epithet in infra specific epithet does not constitute tautonym.

(iii) Later homonym:

If a name which is already existing is given to another taxa once again then the later homonym is rejected.

(iv) Nomen ambiguum (nom. ambig):

The name is rejected if it is used in different sense by different authors.

(v) Nomen confusum (nom. confus):

The name should not be confusing.

(vi) Nomen dubium (non. dub):

Dubious name i.e., with uncertain applications is also rejected.

Names of hybrids:

- ❖ Hybrids are indicated with “X” sign.
- ❖ A hybrid may also be indicated by a formula listing the parents.
- ❖ **Gre**x names can be given to orchid hybrids.
- ❖ A hybrid name does not necessarily refer to a morphologically distinctive group, but applies to all progeny of the parents, no matter how much they vary
- ❖ Hybrids can be named with **rank**s, like other organisms covered by the ICNafp. They are **nothotaxa**, from notho- (hybrid) + taxon. If the parents (or postulated parents) differ in rank, then the rank of the nothotaxon is the lowest. The names of **nothospecies** differ depending on whether they are derived from species within the same genus; if more than one parental genus is involved, then the nothospecies name includes a **nothogenus** name.
- ❖ Examples,
 - i) ×*Sorbaronia* is the name of hybrids between the genera *Sorbus* and *Aronia*.
 - ii) *Pyrus* × *bretschneideri* is a hybrid between two species in the genus *Pyrus*.
 - iii) × *Sorbopyrus auricularis* in the nothogenus *Sorbopyrus*, is a hybrid between *Sorbus aria* and *Pyrus communis*.