

(1259) Proposal to reject the name *Tillandsia* sect. *Synandra* so as to maintain *Tillandsia* sect. *Xiphion* (*Bromeliaceae*, *Tillandsioideae*)

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(1259) *Tillandsia* sect. *Synandra* K. Koch, Consp. Bromel.: 5. 1874 [*Bromel.*], *nom. utique rej. prop.*

Type: *T. corallina* (Regel) K. Koch (*Vriesea corallina* Regel).

Tillandsia sect. *Synandra* K. Koch and *T. sect. Xiphion* E. Morren were both published in 1874. Koch's name appeared in the fourth appendix to the 1873 seed list of the Berlin Botanical Garden, possibly in early 1874 (cf. *TL-2*, No. 3796). Morren's name appeared in the Jul-Sep 1874 fascicle of *Belgique horticole* that was mentioned in a list of newly received literature (in *Bot. Zeitung* (Berlin) 32: 736) on 6 Nov 1874. Exact publication dates are thus unknown for both names, but Koch's name is probably earlier although it has never been used. Its rejection is therefore proposed so as to maintain historic and current use of *T. sect. Xiphion*. However, two other issues must first be discussed: the problem of a potential alternative name, as well as a problem with the typification of Morren's name.

Morren (in *Belgique Hort.* 24: 291-294, t. 12-13. Jul-Sep 1874), in a paper entitled "Notice sur le *Tillandsia (Xiphion) jonghei*", described "*Tillandsia*... § *Xiphion (Gladioliflorae)*" as a new section, with one species illustrated (t. 12-13 which is actually only a single plate). He commented [translated from French] "... we give the name *Xiphion* because of the singular resemblance of the flower to certain *Gladiolus* ... He continued "This section *Xiphion* ought to include *Vriesea gladioliflora* of Wendland as well as *V. geniculata* and *bituminosa* of Wawra". Morren thought that the section might belong to *Vriesea* but said he could not put it there since this would go against all the characters for which Lindley had proposed that genus. Morren later (in *Belgique Hort.* 28: 257-259, t. 14-15. 1878) transferred *T. sect. Xiphion* to *Vriesea*, as *V. sect. Xiphion* (E. Morren) E. Morren, where it remains.

A reviewer noted that "*Tillandsia sect. Gladioliflorae*" may be interpreted as a validly published alternative name, automatically typified (and *T. sect. Xiphion* with it) by *Vriesea gladioliflora* H. Wendl. under Art. 22.5 of the *Code*. I interpret it as not validly published, not being accepted by the author and appearing only this once as what seems a clarification of the Greek epithet.

Four species were named in the protologue: *Tillandsia jonghei*, *Vriesea gladioliflora*, *V. geniculata* Wawra and *V. bituminosa* Wawra. The latter three were not actually transferred to *Tillandsia* (Art. 33.1). Both Baker (*Handb. Bromel.*: 214. 1889) and Smith & Downs (in *Fl. Neotrop.* 14(2): 1069. 1977) stated that *V. gladioliflora* was the type of *V. sect. Xiphion*. Their choice of type is in such serious conflict with the protologue, especially with the diagnostically crucial feature of the stigma morphology, that I propose to supersede it by designating *T. jonghei* as the new type of the sectional name (Art. 10.5).

The Latin description of *Tillandsia sect. Xiphion* is rather vague and might, if not for the description of the stigma, apply to all four species (*Vriesea bituminosa*,

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V. geniculata, *V. gladioliflora*, and *T. jonghei*). The critical feature in the description is “stigma ramosum”, i.e. stigma branched, and is clearly illustrated as fig. 17 of t. 12-13. *T. gladioliflora* does not have this type of stigma, but rather the unbranched cupulate type. Since *T. sect. Xiphion* was described for taxa with branched stigmata we may reject the designated type *T. gladioliflora*, in favour of an original element that matches the description in the protologue (i.e. *V. bituminosa*, *V. geniculata*, or *T. jonghei*). Since *V. geniculata* is now recognized in *Alcantarea*, it is not selected. Between *V. bituminosa* or *T. jonghei*, it would seem best to select *V. jonghei* as illustrative of the definition of *T. sect. Xiphion* as originally intended by Morren. A new type of *T. sect. Xiphion* is therefore here proposed, *T. jonghei*. Typification is critical since *Werauhia*, recently published by Grant (in *Trop. Subtrop. Pflanzenwelt* 91: 28. 1995), has *W. gladioliflora* (H. Wendl.) J. R. Grant as its type.

Koch (l.c.) described *Tillandsia* sect. *Synandra* with *T. corallina* Regel (= *Vriesea platynema* Gaudich.) as its type. However, this sectional name has been overlooked, never being adopted in any major work. All taxonomic and monographic treatments of *Vriesea* have used *V. sect. Xiphion* (E. Morren) E. Morren, e.g. Mez (in Candolle & Candolle, *Monogr. Phan.* 9: 559, 591. 1896), Mez (in Engler, *Pflanzenr.* 100: 367, 385. 1935) and Smith & Downs (in *Fl. Neotrop.* 14(2): 1069, 1088. 1977).

The proposed rejection of *Tillandsia* sect. *Synandra* would maintain *Vriesea* sect. *Xiphion*, if typified by *T. jonghei*, as currently used by modern authors.

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