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40. ***Thesium ramosum*** HAYNE in J. Bot. (Schrader) 1800(1): 30, t. 7 (1800) quoad diagn. et icon. ex cl. loc. natal. et syn. POLLICHII; MERT. & KOCH, Deutschl. Fl. 2: 284 (1826).

- *Th. arvense* pro parte: HORV., Fl. Tyrnav.: 27 (1774), nom. illeg. [ICBN § 52.1: superfl. pro *Th. alpino* & *Th. linophyllum* L. (1753)], excl. syn. LINNAEI; HENDRYCH in Taxon 10: 22 (1961); et auct. sequ.

The state of affairs regarding the name *Th. ramosum*, under which our species was known until then, was presented by HENDRYCH 1961: 20-21 essentially correctly. Also the identity of the plants treated by HORVÁTOVSZKY under the validly published binomial “*Th. arvense*” are recognized correctly; overlooked in this process, however, was a breach of Article 52 (then 63) of the ICBN, which renders this name against the rules.

The autopsy of the rare dissertation by HORVÁTOVSZKY (recorded by Pritzel 1872: no. 4277, but it is missing in the “Taxonomic Literature”) shows the following: For the flora of Trnava (Western Slovakia) detected species are treated according to the system and the method of Linnaeus; they are marked by his trivial names and diagnoses, as well as by the respective species number (from Linnaeus 1762, 1763). However, such a reference number is missing in only four cases: namely, the two cases also expressly mentioned in the preface as new species, *Dactylis polygama* and *Epilobium molle*, then in *Bromus inermis* Leyser (still missing in the Species plantarum) as well as *Veronica scutellata*, where instead of a number, a question mark along with a reference to JACQUIN 1762 calls attention to the doubtful identity of the Linnaean and the Jacquinian plant. (A hint to a new *Thesium* species is missing in the preface, about which HENDRYCH wondered.)

To the species that is now listed under its new name, *Thesium arvense*, HORVÁTOVSZKY, in contrast, assigned even two species numbers from the Species plantarum, namely 1 (i.e. *Th. linophyllum* L.) and 2 (i.e. *Th. alpinum* L.), which are thus regarded as synonyms of one species (comparable to the merger of *Agrostis* and of *Euphorbia* species; these, however, each with retention of one of the Linnaean names). The conclusion drawn from the renewed inflorescence diagnostics also points to the union into one species: “jungit [*Th.*] *linophyllum* & [*Th.*] *alpinum* in unum” [joins [*Th.*] *linophyllum* & [*Th.*] *alpinum* into one]. But a renaming was superfluous; necessarily (according to Article 7.5 of the “Code”), the name must, for lack of an expressed “type” designation, nomenclaturally be assigned to one of the Linnaean species (and best, be forgotten again). Considering this situation, a “neotypification” (HENDRYCH 1961) does, of course, not comply with the rules and is, therefore, irrelevant.

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