CORRECTING A MINOR ERROR: A NEW NAME FOR A MARANTACEAE SPECIES FROM NEW GUINEA

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ABSTRACT

Key words: Cominsia, Indonesia, lectotype, nomen novum, Phrynium.

INTRODUCTION
In their revision of the generic organisation of Asian Marantaceae, Suksathan et al. (2009) reduced the genus Cominsia to Phrynium. Among the new combinations at species rank that were made to accompany this realignment, Cominsia minor Valeton was transferred to Phrynium, as ‘Phrynium minor’. The Latin term minor is a comparative adjective derived from parvus meaning small, so minor means smaller. Latin adjectives typically decline according to the gender of the noun that they are describing, or in plant nomenclature when used as a specific (or infraspecific) epithet with the gender of the generic name with which they form the name (ICN (Turland et al., 2018) Art. 23.5). For masculine and feminine genders, minor is the correct declension, for genera with a neuter gender the epithet is correctly minus. Therefore, ‘Phrynium minor’ is correctible to Phrynium minus. But this name has been used before by Schumann (1902) for what is now known as Stachyphrynium repens (Körn.) Suksathan. & Borchs. The new combination in Phrynium for Cominsia minor is therefore an illegitimate later homonym, and cannot be the correct name for the species. As there appear to be no heterotypic synonyms available, a replacement name is proposed here, using the old generic name as the specific epithet.

Cominsia minor was described by Valeton from plants growing in the Bogor Botanic Garden, that were originally introduced from South-West New Guinea. The protologue included a detailed plate, presumably drawn from living material. Valeton made no reference to herbarium material and no likely type material was located in Herbarium Bogoriense (H. Rustiami pers. comm.). Therefore, Valeton’s plate is here selected as lectotype of the name Cominsia minor.

Phrynium cominsia I.M.Turner, nom. nov.

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REFERENCES