

## ON THE TYPE OF THE LINNAEAN NAME *RUBUS PARVIFOLIUS* (ROSACEAE): A CRITICAL REASSESSMENT

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**ABSTRACT:** The nomenclatural type of the Linnaean name *Rubus parvifolius* (Rosaceae), published in the Appendix to *Species Plantarum* in 1753, is discussed. A specimen preserved at the Linnaean Herbarium in London (LINN) (now Herb. Linn. No. 653.5) was selected by Elmer Drew Merrill in 1917 as the type of the name, and this “typification” was supported by Widrlechner in 1998. However, this specimen is not annotated with the relevant Linnaeus *Species Plantarum* number for this species, in this case the number “11”. The presence of the 1753 *Species Plantarum* number on a sheet at the LINN has been taken as evidence that the specimen was in Linnaeus’s possession in 1753. This ‘Stearn-Jarvis’ rule is very significant to the order and stability of Linnaeus’s species nomenclature, and is globally accepted. However, if the typification proposed by Merrill is accepted, there would be an exception to this rule, which would be a destabilizing and disruptive decision for nomenclature, by breaking a solid and universally accepted norm. This complex situation is analyzed here. I conclude that, in this specific case, it is necessary to obey the widely accepted norm and select as a possible lectotype an element that is certainly original and used by Linnaeus to describe his species: Rumphius’s illustration cited in the protologue and published in 1747 in the *Herbarium Amboinense*. Unfortunately, the bramble illustrated by Rumphius belongs to a different species than the current use and concept of the Linnaean name *Rubus parvifolius*. However, this illustration is part of the protologue and cannot therefore be in conflict with it (see International Code of Nomenclature: Art. 9 Note 10). This has led me to prepare a proposal to conserve the name with a conserved type, as this is the most effective way to solicit the expert opinions of the various nomenclature committees. Consequently, this work will be submitted for their review, which I believe represents the best approach to achieving a consensus solution within the international nomenclatural community. **Keywords:** Lectotype; Linnaean Herbarium; epitype; nomenclature; original material; Pehr Osbeck; syntype.

**RESUMEN:** Sobre el tipo del nombre linneano *Rubus parvifolius* (Rosaceae): una reevaluación crítica. Se discute el tipo nomenclatural del nombre linneano *Rubus parvifolius* (Rosaceae), publicado en el Apéndice de *Species Plantarum*, en 1753. Un espécimen conservado en el Herbario Linneano de Londres (LINN) (actualmente Herb. Linn. No. 653.5) fue seleccionado por Elmer Drew Merrill en 1917 como el tipo del nombre, y esta “tipificación” fue respaldada por Widrlechner en 1998. Sin embargo, este espécimen no está anotado con el número relevante de *Species Plantarum* de Linnaeus para esta especie, en este caso, el número “11”. La presencia del número de *Species Plantarum* de 1753 en una lámina del LINN se ha tomado como evidencia de que el espécimen estaba en posesión de Linnaeus en 1753. Esta regla ‘Stearn-Jarvis’ es muy significativa para el orden y la estabilidad de la nomenclatura de las especies de Linnaeus, y está globalmente aceptada. Sin embargo, si se acepta la tipificación propuesta por Merrill, se establecería una excepción a esta regla, lo que sería una decisión desestabilizadora y disruptiva para la nomenclatura, al romper una norma sólida y universalmente aceptada. Esta situación compleja se analiza aquí. Se concluye que, en este caso específico, es necesario obedecer la norma ampliamente aceptada y seleccionar como posible lectotipo un elemento que sea ciertamente original y utilizado por Linnaeus para describir su especie: la ilustración de Rumphius citada en el protólogo y publicada en 1747 en el *Herbarium Amboinense*. Desafortunadamente, la zarza ilustrada por Rumphius pertenece a una especie diferente al uso y concepto actual del nombre linneano *Rubus parvifolius*. Sin embargo, esta ilustración es parte del protólogo y, por lo tanto, no puede entrar en conflicto con él (ver Código Internacional de Nomenclatura: Art. 9 Nota 10). Esto nos lleva a preparar una propuesta para conservar el nombre con un tipo conservado, ya que ésta es la manera más efectiva de solicitar las opiniones de los expertos de los diversos comités de nomenclatura. En consecuencia, este trabajo será presentado para su revisión, lo que entendemos que representa el mejor enfoque para lograr una solución consensuada dentro de la comunidad nomenclatural internacional. **Palabras clave:** Lectotipo; Herbario Linneano; epitypo; nomenclatura; material original; Pehr Osbeck; sintipo.

### INTRODUCCIÓN

The genus *Rubus* L. (*Rubeae*, *Rosaceae*) is spread over all continents (except Antarctica), and is found in most climatic regions (MÜLLER, 1859; WEBER, 1995). This genus has a great diversity of species throughout its area of distribution (see e.g., FOCKE, 1902, 1910-1914; SUDRE,

1908–1913; JUZEPCZUK, 1941; ZIELIŃSKI, 2004; VAN DE BEEK & WIDRLECHNER, 2021). Depending on which classification is followed, historic or modern, the number of *Rubus* species may vary from 250 to 750 or up to 1000 worldwide (FOCKE, 1877, 1902; WEBER, 1995). Bramble (included the Blackberries) are perennial plants that form thickets of biennial spiny (usually) stems (canes) that grow

in length in the first year and develop flowering laterals in the second year.

*Rubus parvifolius* L. (subg. *Idaeobatus* Focke, subsect. *Stimulantes* T.T. Yu & L.T. Lu) ( $2n = 14$  chromosomes; see JINNO, 1958A, 1958B; IWATSUBO & NARUHASHI, 1991, 1993, 1998), native to Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Tasmania, China, and South Australia, has been introduced in North America and West Himalaya (YÜ & al., 1985; NARUHASHI 1987; WIDRLECHNER, 1998; WIDRLECHNER & RABELER, 1991; LINGDI & BOUFFORD, 2003; IWATSUKI & al., 2006; FNAEC, 2014; MOHLENBROCK, 2014; WERIER, 2017; POWO, 2025; WFO, 2025). This species was introduced in North America for food and erosion control, but it is a serious invasive species that threatens savannas and prairies. Japanese raspberry is also currently cultivated as a decorative shrub (REHDER, 1940), and is a medicinal plant; the fruits are eaten raw and are also used for making jam, jelly, juice, syrup, candy, wine, and vinegar. The dried fruit are used in traditional Chinese medicine (LINGDI & BOUFFORD, 2003). The young plants are used as a substitute for tea, and the stems and roots are a source of tannins (YÜ & al., 1985; LINGDI & BOUFFORD, 2003).

In North America, this species was used as a partner for crossings with *R. idaeus* L., *R. occidentalis* L., and blackberries (WEBER, 2001). In China, this bramble also shows potential in breeding for improved yield and fruit quality (GU & al., 1993, 1996; LI & al., 2002).

Linnaeus published 16 names under *Rubus* (see JARVIS, 2007; VAN DE BEEK, 2016; FERRER & VAN DE BEEK, 2021, for the name *Rubus creticus* Tourn. ex L. 1756, a name validated from a description published by TOURNEFORT (1703)), of which two are currently placed in other genera (i.e., *Rubus dalibarda* L. 1762 an illegitimate replacement name for *Dalibarda repens* L. 1753, and *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC., based on *Rubus japonicus* L.). All the Linnaean names in this genus have been discussed and typified (see, e.g., JARVIS, 2007; VAN DE BEEK, 2016). However, the nomenclature of *R. parvifolius* is a matter of debate. This is undesirable for such a common species, as it creates instability.

As part of the studies on the nomenclature of the *Rubus* species (FERRER & VAN DE BEEK, 2021, 2022), the aim of this paper is to discuss the nomenclatural type of *Rubus parvifolius*, and to propose a new interpretation of the original Linnaean material for the typification of the name according to the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (ICN, TURLAND & al., 2025).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This work is based on the analysis of the protologue of *R. parvifolius*, and of names published before its publication date (1753) that have been related to it. Other works that served to settle their identity were investigated as well. The designation of the type is based on the analysis of the protologue, the examination of relevant literature, and on the study of the original material and other herbarium sheets. The identity of the specimens is verified against the traditional and current use of the name. All ICN Articles cited in the text refer to the *Madrid Code* (TURLAND & al., 2025). Herbarium acronyms are cited

according to THIERS (2025 [continuously updated]), some of which are available as virtual herbaria on-line.

## BACKGROUND AND ORIGINAL ELEMENTS OF THE NAME *RUBUS PARVIFOLIUS* L.

The protologue of *Rubus parvifolius* (LINNAEUS, 1753: 1197, Appendix) includes a diagnosis “11. RUBUS foliis ternatis subtus tomentosus, caule petiolisque aculeis recurvis. (494. post. 5.)” followed by a synonym “*Rubus moluccanus parvifolius*” cited from Rumphius (1747: vol. 5: 88, t. 47, f. 1). The protologue also includes the provenance “*Habitat in India Osbeck*” and a description of the plant “*Caules fruticosi, teretes, incani. Folia ternata, subtus albotomentosa, venosa, petiolis subtus recurvato-aculeatis. Calyces tomentosi, in racemum digesti*”.

The reference quoted by Linnaeus from RUMPHIUS (1747: vol. 5: 89, Tab. XLVII, Fig. 1) includes an illustration in the *Herbarium Amboinense* (see Fig. 1) that can be considered as an original element used by Linnaeus to describe his species. This drawing illustrates a stem with leaves, flowers, and fruits. In this illustration, the leaves are 1 or 3-foliolate, but one of them is illustrated as 5-foliolate. This illustration was identified by MERRILL (1917: 246–247) as belonging to *R. fraxinifolius* subsp. *celebicus* (Blume) Focke (*R. celebicus* Focke) (see also below).

In addition, Linnaeus explicitly cited a potential gathering in the protologue, with a specific locality and author, as “*Habitat in India Osbeck*.” (see ICN Art. 40 Note 2 and Note 3). However, unfortunately, this gathering cannot be identified with a concrete specimen preserved in the Linnaean herbarium (sensu lato). As indicated above, there is a relevant specimen preserved at the LINN, Herb. Linnaeus No. 653.5. However, there are difficulties in interpreting this specimen, partly because Linnaeus did not annotate the sheet with the *Species Plantarum* number of *R. parvifolius*, i.e. “11”, however, it is annotated as “China” while in the protologue, “India” is mentioned.

Pehr Osbeck (1723–1805) was a Swedish clergyman, botanist, and explorer. He studied at Uppsala under Linnaeus (1745–1750). Osbeck was chaplain on ships of the Swedish East India Company on voyages to China in 1750, and the source of most of Linnaeus’s Chinese specimens (JARVIS, 2007). Osbeck returned from China in June 1752, with his assistant Olof Torén (1718–1753), with collections that arrived in time for Linnaeus to be able to take them into consideration for *Species Plantarum* (1753) (HANSEN & MAULE, 1973; MANKTELOW & NYBERG, 2005; JARVIS, 2007).

Although HANSEN & MAULE (1973) discussed the Osbeck specimens and indicated that lectotypes of Linnaean names should be based on Osbeck specimens, they failed to designate any specific sheet as the lectotype of any name, although they listed one or more sheets for each name.

According to JARVIS (2007: 801), the lectotype of the Linnaean name *R. parvifolius* was designated by ZANDEE & KALKMAN (1981: 90) from a specimen preserved at the LINN: Herb. Linnaeus No. 653.5 (image available at <https://linnaean-online.org/4364/#?s=0&cv=0>). However, Zandee & Kalkman (1981) only mentioned that: “6. *R. parvifolius* L. is based on two different elements, viz. an Osbeck specimen from ‘India’ and the reference to

Rumphius' *R. moluccus parvifolius*. Linnaeus's description ('*foliis ternatis subtus tomentosis*') is obviously based on the specimen only and this must be considered to be the type".

Therefore, Zandee and Kalkman indicated unspecified material and they did not distinguish the herbarium where the specimen is preserved. These authors mentioned "an Osbeck specimen from India" and "it is obviously based on the specimen", but from what herbarium? Unfortunately, although Zandee and Kalkman noted the existence of an original specimen and interpreted the name and the description (*foliis ternatis subtus tomentosis*) from this material, it does not explicitly designate a concrete specimen or gathering to be the type (see below). According to Art. 9.22 of the *Madrid Code* "On or after 1 January 1990, lectotypification or neotypification of a name of a species or infraspecific taxon by a specimen or unpublished illustration is not effected unless the herbarium, collection, or institution in which the type is conserved is specified", and therefore, the Zandee and Kalkman reference would be correct for the type designation. However, these authors mentioned "an Osbeck specimen from India", and there is no herbarium material that matches this indication, i.e., material collected by Osbeck in India. Therefore, I consider that these authors did not see any specific herbarium material and relied solely on Linnaeus's protologue to consider that there was material that came from an indication of Linnaeus, which, on the other hand, does not fit with that indicated in the herbarium sheets at LINN and LD.

For the name *R. parvifolius*, MERRILL (1917: 246–247) mentioned that "The Rumphian figure [*Rubus moluccus parvifolius* Rumph. Herb. Amb. 5: 88, t. 47, f. 1] and description were cited by Linnaeus in the original description of *Rubus parvifolius*, Sp. Pl. (1753) 1197, but the actual type, on which the description was based and from which the Linnaean species must be interpreted, was a specimen collected near Canton, China, by Osbeck. This specimen is the same as *Rubus triphyllus* Thunb., Fl. Jap. (1784) 215 [in J.A. Murray (ed.), Syst. Veg., ed. 14: 475 (1784)], the name that Focke has adopted for the species. However, Focke is manifestly in error in the selection of this name as the valid one for the species is *Rubus parvifolius* L. [not *R. parviflorus* L. as cited by Focke, Bibl. Bot. 17<sup>2</sup> (1911) 187]". This Merrill's "typification" was supported by Widrlechner (1998: 424), who wrote: "Type: China, n.d., Osbeck s.n., Linnaean specimen 653.5 (lectotype designated by Merrill, Intrpr. Herb. amboin. 247. 1917: LINN, fiche!)"

Merrill's statement ("the actual type, on which the description was based and from which the Linnaean species must be interpreted, was a specimen collected near Canton, China, by Osbeck") is correct for the purpose of typification, even though Merrill did not specify the herbarium collection in there, as this was not required by the Code until 1990. The indication of MERRILL (1917) certainly satisfies Art. 7.10 and 7.11 of the *ICN*, and could constitute an effective lectotype designation, because it clearly indicates the type element mentioned in Art. 7.11 ("if the type element is clearly indicated"), although an element can be considered as a single specimen or gathering... or illustration, following what is indicated in Art. 40.3 of the *ICN*.

However, as indicated below, there is a problem, since there are at least two Osbeck specimens annotated as "China", that could be part of the same gathering. The name Osbeck was mentioned by Linnaeus in the

protologue. Therefore, as there are at least two specimens (at the LINN and Lund University, LD, see below) that are part of the gathering mentioned by Merrill "Canton, China, by Osbeck", in order to accept the lectotypification proposed by MERRILL (1917), this should be reduced to a single specimen, through a second-step lectotypification in accordance with Art. 9.17 of the *ICN*.

Some questions still remain about specimen 653.5 LINN: 1) Was the specimen at the LINN actually collected by Osbeck in China? The name Osbeck is not mentioned anywhere on the sheet. 2) Was it studied by Linnaeus before 1753? The sheet lacks a clear reference, usually handwritten by Linnaeus near the bottom of the sheet, next to the number under which the corresponding species was described in *Species Plantarum*. This, according to STEARN (1957) and JARVIS (2007) is a good (but not always indicative) sign that the specimen was in Linnaeus's possession prior to 1753.

Linnaeus received specimens from Osbeck's journey to Asia in 1752 (i.e., a year before *Species Plantarum* was published), and many are clearly listed in Savage's 1945 catalogue of the Linnaean Herbarium in London. In his introduction to the Facsimile of *Species Plantarum*, STEARN (1957) adds that some sheets were marked by Linnaeus as O for Osbeck. HANSEN & MAULE (1973: 205) also add that some sheets were directly marked as 'Osbeck' by Linnaeus at the verso. None of these markings are present on Herb. Linn. No. 653.5.

The word 'Chin.' on the sheet Herb. Linn. No. 653.5 was written directly on the folio towards the bottom of the sheet, and this handwriting belongs to Linnaeus. I compared it with ca. 50 specimens in the Linnaean Herbarium on which Linnaeus wrote the epithet '*chinensis*', and the first four letters clearly match the 'Chin.' marking on the *Rubus* specimen (e.g. *Sinapis chinensis* L. Herb. Linn. No. 845.9 at the LINN, see e.g., <https://linnean-online.org/7746/#?s=0&cv=0&z=0.2419%2C0.466%2C0.5277%2C0.4924>). Identical 'Chin.' markings were also written by Linnaeus on the labels of other putative Osbeck specimens in his own collection at LINN (e.g. *Phoenix* sp. No. 1291.9; see <https://linnean-online.org/13912/#?s=0&cv=0>) or *Euphorbia origanoides* L. No. 630.2; see <https://linnean-online.org/4596/#?s=0&cv=1&z=0.3836%2C0.8127%2C0.3729%2C0.1948>). Examples of Osbeck's handwriting are also available here: <http://linnaeus.nrm.se/botany/fbo/hand/osbeck.html.en>, and JARVIS (2007: 224), and they differ from what is written on Herb. Linn. No. 653.5.

Why did Linnaeus indicate India in the protologue? The mention of India as a habitat for Chinese plants should not be a surprise, when we remember that in the era of the East India Companies, India was often still used not only to denote present-day India but also as a collective name for places east of the river Indus (HANSEN & MAULE, 1973). The question was discussed by BRETSCHNEIDER (1898) and STEARN (1957).

On the other hand, after analyzing some of the species described by Linnaeus in the Appendix of the *Species Plantarum* (1753), the provenance of "India" in the protologue of *R. parvifolius* may be an "error" by Linnaeus himself, or perhaps he could have been referring to the locality of origin of the plant included in the Rumphius's work *Herbarium Amboinense* that Linnaeus himself cited in the protologue. The *Herbarium*

*Amboinense* (RUMPHIUS, 1741–1750) and the supplementary *Herbarii Amboinensis Auctuarium* (RUMPHIUS, 1755) by Georg Eberhard Rumpf (Rumphius) (1627–1702) provided detailed descriptions and illustrations of the plants found in the island of Ambon, then a Dutch colony in the Maluku Islands (Moluccas) of Indonesia. Published in the Netherlands long after Rumphius' death by the Director of the Amsterdam Botanic Garden, Johannes Burman, the work appeared prior to Carl Linnaeus's *Species Plantarum* (1753). However, in that work, Linnaeus referred to only a handful of Rumphius' species accounts.

Linnaeus's *Species Plantarum* comprised two volumes, the first appearing on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1753, before receiving the six Rumphius volumes of the *Herbarium Amboinense*. By the time they arrived, printing of the second volume (pp. 561–1189, with an Appendix (pp. 1190–1199) and Addenda (p. 1200), published in August 1753) was well advanced, as the 15 included Rumphius references are all near the end (JARVIS, 2019). Several references to Rumphius appear in the Appendix, and while three are cited as synonyms, five Linnaean binomials: *Convolvulus peltatus* Linnaeus (1753: 1194), *Croton variegatus* Linnaeus (1753: 1199) [*variegatum*], *Quercus molucca* Linnaeus (1753: 1199), *Rubus moluccanus* Linnaeus (1753: 1197), and *Rubus parvifolius*, were based solely on Rumphius' accounts, as was that of *Hibiscus surattensis* Linnaeus (1753: 1200) in the Addenda. Appended to the account of *Croton variegatus*, we find a statement confirming that Linnaeus did not obtain a copy of *Herbarium Amboinense* until after the printing of *Species Plantarum* had been completed ('Opus eximium beati Rumpfii... ad me accessit primum absolute a typographo opera, cujus itaque synonyma alibi seorsim tradere animus est.'). Also in the Appendix, Linnaeus coined *Rumphia amboinensis* LINNAEUS (1753: 1193) in honor of Rumphius (JARVIS, 2019).

Curiously, the provenance cited by Linnaeus for the name *Croton variegatus*, a name based solely on Rumphius' reference *Herbarium Amboinense*, is the same as the one mentioned for *Rubus parvifolius* ("*Habitat in India*"). The lectotype of *Croton variegatus* was designated by MERRILL (1917), and is the illustration "Codiaeum medium Chrysosticon" published in Rumphius, *Herb. Amboin.*, 4: 65, t. 25, 1743. However, for other names also based solely on the work of Rumphius, Linnaeus explicitly cites "Amboina" or "Moluccas" as the locality (see *Convolvulus peltatus* "*Habitat in Amboina*", *Quercus molucca* "*Habitat in Moluccis*", and *Rubus moluccanus* "*Habitat in Amboina*").

It is worth noting here that for the name *Hedysarum lagopodioides* L., also described by Linnaeus in *Species Plantarum* (LINNAEUS, 1753: 1198, Appendix), Linnaeus also mentioned "*Habitat in China*. Osbeck" in the protologue as the provenance of this species. In the Linnaean Herbarium at the LINN, there is only one specimen of this species, *Herb. Linnaeus* No. 921.49 (image available at <https://linnean-online.org/8739/#?s=0&cv=0>). This sheet is annotated as "*Hedysarum lagopodioides*" by Linnaeus at the bottom of the sheet. However, it is not original material, as its Linnaean annotation lacks the species number from *Species plantarum*. DY PHON & ADEMA (in TURLAND & JARVIS, 1997: 471) designated Chinese material in P as a "neotype", with barcode P02142552

(image available at <http://mediaphoto.mnhn.fr/media/1446551647952k6FpZ8WNHiAblxeL>); a duplicate of this specimen is preserved at P, barcode (image available at <http://mediaphoto.mnhn.fr/media/14465516038151qfDu8bBQI1xllol>). However, DY PHON (1987: 103) had already designated 921.49 (LINN) as type, as "TYPE: *herb. Linné 921.49, LINN*". Therefore, under Art. 9.8 of the *ICN*, this is to be treated as a valid neotypification (see Jarvis, 2007). It could be said that the name *R. parvifolius* is a similar case, because the Linnaean annotation on the sheet lacks the species number from *Species Plantarum*. However, the difference between the specimen of *R. parvifolius* and the specimen of *H. lagopodioides* is that the first is noted as "China" on the sheet, and especially with the letter "A" (Appendix?).

As has been noted many times (STEARNS, 1957; TURLAND & JARVIS, 1997; JARVIS & TURLAND, 1998; JARVIS & al., 2001, 2006; JONSELL & JARVIS, 2002; JARVIS, 2007; among many others), the presence of the 1753 *Species Plantarum* number on a sheet in the Linnaean Herbarium in London (LINN) has been taken as evidence that the specimen was in Linnaeus's possession in 1753. However, although specimen No. 653.5 LINN is not annotated with the *Species Plantarum* number of the species, i.e. "11" (see <https://linnean-online.org/4364/#?s=0&cv=0>), it seems clear that in this case, it could have been mentioned in the protologue by Linnaeus, and both (protologue and specimen) could have been linked (syntype?), or in all likelihood came from Osbeck and China. However, in the protologue "India" is mentioned, and therefore specimen No. 653.5 LINN cannot be treated as a syntype according to *ICN* Art. 9.6.

Perhaps Linnaeus confused China with India. The reason why we know that *R. parvifolius* was collected in China, and not in India, is that this species is listed by Osbeck in an account of his trip to Canton on 29 October 1751, (image available here: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/49667058>, which should also have been cited; see also the eloquent treatment of Alexandra Cook of the Chinese species known to Linnaeus (COOK, 2010).

On the other hand, the sheet at the LINN is noted as "A" on the bottom of the sheet. Does this letter "A" refer to the word "Appendix", the section where Linnaeus included the name *Rubus parvifolius* in the *Species Plantarum* with the number "11"? My opinion is not. This letter relates to Linnaeus's subsequent account of the species in *Systema Naturae*, ed. 10, 2: 1063 (1759) <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/586982>, where *R. parvifolius* is listed as species "A", between *R. hispidus* L. and *R. caesius* L. In this work, Linnaeus retained the original numbering of species that were included in the main part of *Species Plantarum*, but unnumbered species (including those that appeared in the Appendix and names published in various dissertations that appeared between 1753 and 1759) were typically intercalated and given letters instead of numbers. I've checked a few other A, B, C, D, etc. entries for other genera included in *Syst. Nat.* ed. 10 (e.g., *Potentilla* L. and *Capparis* L.), and the corresponding specimens at the LINN also have the same letters written by Linnaeus near the bottom of the sheets. Also, none of the specimens in *Herb. Linn.* that correspond

to the 44 species described in the Appendix to Sp. Pl. have the letter 'A' written by Linnaeus anywhere on them, except for *Cotyledon hispanica* L. (Herb. Linn. No. 594.6), which has the letter 'A' added by Linnaeus, although this is also crossed out, presumably because the corresponding species was listed in Syst. Nat. ed. 10, 2: 1036 (1759) under No. 7, not as species 'A'. Additionally, all specimens already chosen as lectotypes for the names published in the Appendix by subsequent authors have the Sp. Pl. number clearly written by Linnaeus at the bottom of the corresponding sheets (meaning they were most likely seen by Linnaeus before 1753), and those specimens chosen as neotypes lack such references, just as in the *Hedysarum lagopodioides* example. Thus, I suggest that to be consistent with the established protocols, I consider the Merrill's and Widrlechner's type selection as ineffective because there is original material that can be selected as the lectotype of the name.

On the other hand, there is a relevant specimen at LD located in the Acharius herbarium, which is kept separate from the Retzius herbarium. Acharius (1757-1819) had quite a few Pehr Osbeck specimens (ca. 85). The sheet at LD bears a stem, with leaves and flowers, and is annotated "China / Osbeck" and "*Rubus parvifolius*". However, there is a complication with this, which is that Pehr Osbeck's son, Carl Gustaf Osbeck (1766-1841), who was mainly a physician but also collected plants, also went to China. The Swedish Museum of Natural History (Herbarium S) has listed a specimen of *R. parvifolius* as being collected by him rather than his father (see <http://herbarium.emg.umu.se/list.php?search=Search&Genus=Rubus&SmartCollector=Osbeck>). There are no specimens at LD that are listed as being collected by C.G. Osbeck; they are just marked Osbeck (Patrik Froden, pers. comm.), which makes us assume that it refers to the father, but C.G. Osbeck did work under Acharius at the hospital for venereal diseases in Vadstena between 1800-1812, so they knew each other. However, I cannot say for certain that this was collected by P. Osbeck, even though I find it probable. Additionally, all databased C.G. Osbeck specimens are in Herbarium S, so they perhaps obtained his herbarium after his death in 1841, and they seem to be marked (see <https://herbarium.nrm.se/specimens/S12-14479>; see also [https://herbarium.nrm.se/img/fbo/large/S05-004001/S05-4098\\_a.jpg](https://herbarium.nrm.se/img/fbo/large/S05-004001/S05-4098_a.jpg)).

In conclusion, the specimens at the LINN and LD cannot be treated as syntypes according to the "India" provenance indicated in the protologue by Linnaeus. Furthermore, the specimen at the LINN as original material can be questioned, which would lead to an ineffective typification by MERRILL (1917) and WIDRLECHNER (1998).

However, Linnaeus's description of *R. parvifolius* in the protologue, especially the notion of the whitish pubescence on the undersides of the leaves, must have been based on the study of Osbeck's specimens, as these characters are not present on the Rumphius's plate, and the specimens at LD and the LINN perfectly match this description. In this case, could a lack of the Sp. Pl. reference number on Herb. Linn. No. 653.5 be treated as a rare exception to the Stearn rule? JARVIS (2007: 46) wrote: "if, in individual cases, additional data (...) (e.g. precise agreement with a description etc.) suggest strongly that an unnumbered sheet was available to Linnaeus, and that he

believed it to be identifiable with the name in question, then such sheets have been admitted as original material", thus further confirming that perhaps Herb. Linn. No. 653.5 could also be treated as a potential lectotype.

Unfortunately, the bramble illustrated by Rumphius could belong to a different species (see MERRILL, 1917). Thus, I prefer not to propose conserving the name *Rubus parvifolius* with a conserved type according to ICN Art. 14.9. However, the Rumphius's illustration does not match with the current use and concept of the name *Rubus parvifolius*. Linnaeus mentioned in the protologue: "RUBUS foliis ternatis subtus tomentosis" and "Caules fruticosi, teretes, incani. Folia ternata, subtus albo-tomentosa [...]"; and Rumphius's illustration shows glabrous leaves. However, this illustration is part of the protologue, and cannot therefore be in conflict with it (see International Code of Nomenclature: Art. 9 Note 10). In order to avoid any ambiguity coming from a literal interpretation of the lectotype proposed in this paper, due to the lack of important diagnostic characters, an epitype is designated as recommended by the Art. 9.9 of the *Madrid Code*. The epitype selected is the specimen preserved at LD, collected in China by Osbeck. The epitype represents the traditional concept and current use of the name *Rubus parvifolius* (see e.g., ZANDEE & KALKMAN, 1981; WIDRLECHNER & RABELER, 1991; WIDRLECHNER, 1998; LINGDI & BOUFFORD, 2003).

A solution to this entire problem could have been the selection of Rumphius's illustration as the lectotype and, to avoid any ambiguity arising from a literal interpretation of the lectotype, the designation of an epitype to support it. However, clearly, Rumphius's illustration does not correspond with the current use and concept of the name *R. parvifolius* (see MERRILL, 1917). Nevertheless, since this illustration is part of the protologue, it cannot be considered to conflict with it (see ICN Art. 9 Note 10). However, the designation of an epitype that matches the concept and current usage of the name *R. parvifolius* would be in serious conflict with Rumphius's illustration.

This specific case regarding the typification of this Linnaean name has been the subject of extensive discussion among various authors over the last few years, and without a consensus. This has led me to prepare a proposal to conserve the name with a conserved type, as this is the most effective way to solicit the expert opinions of the various nomenclature committees. Consequently, this work will be submitted for their review, which I believe represents the best approach to achieving a consensus solution within the international nomenclatural community.

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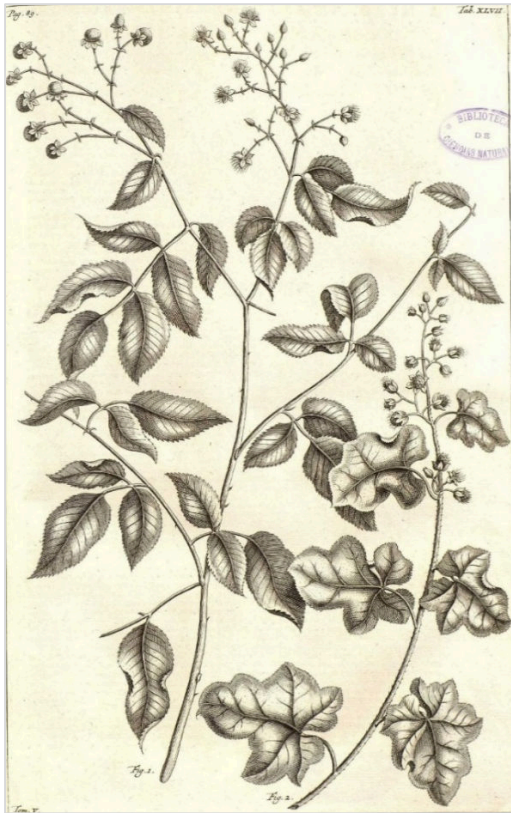
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**Fig. 1.** Linnaeus original element and lectotype of *Rubus parvifolius*, illustration published by Rumphius in the *Herbarium Amboinense* (1747: vol. 5: 89, tab. XLVII, fig. 1).



**Fig. 3.** Specimen of *Rubus parvifolius*, collected by Osbeck in China, Herb. Lund Acc. no. 1747188 (LD). Image courtesy of the herbarium LD, reproduced with permission.



**Fig. 2.** Specimen of *Rubus parvifolius*, collected by Osbeck in China, Herb. Linn. No. 653.5 (LINN). Image courtesy of the herbarium LINN, reproduced with permission.



**Figure 4.** Detail of the specimen of *Rubus parvifolius*, collected by Osbeck in China, Herb. Lund Acc. no. 1747188 (LD). Image courtesy of the herbarium LD, reproduced with permission.

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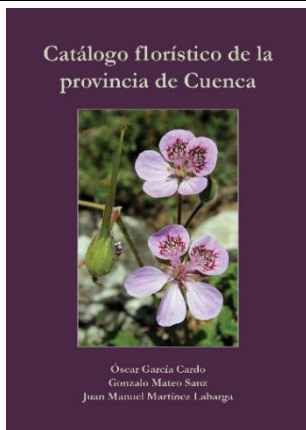
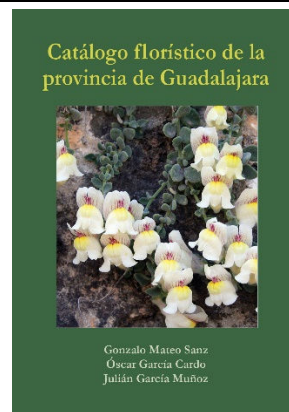
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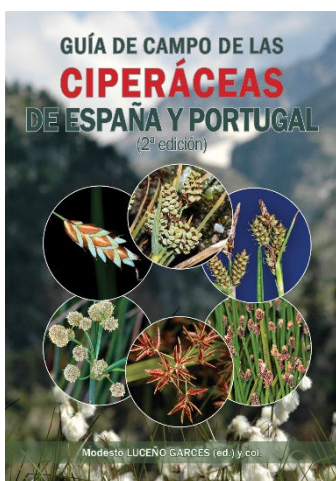
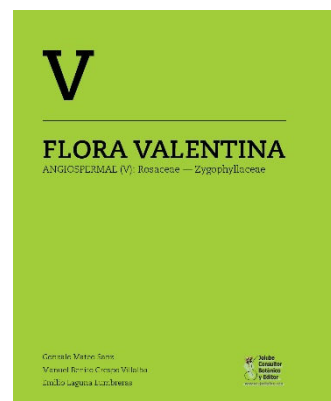
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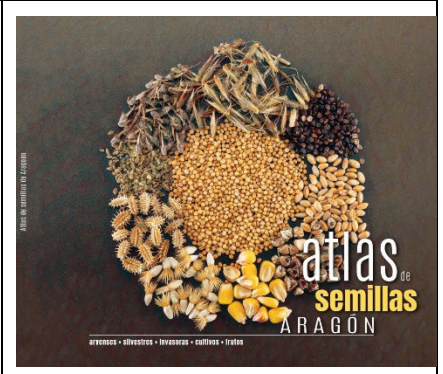
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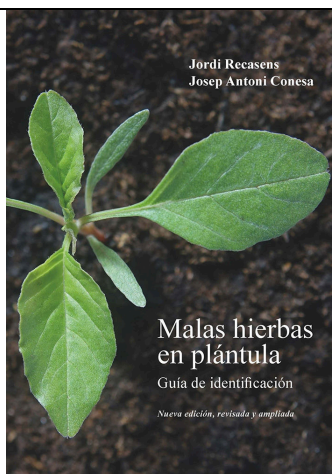
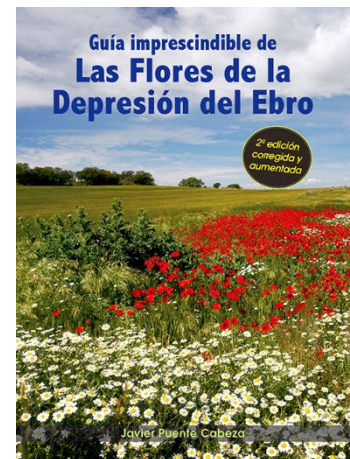
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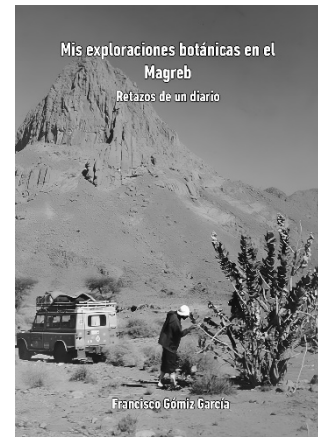
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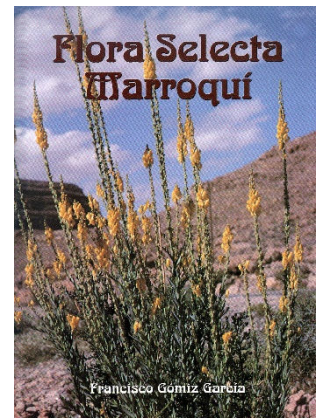
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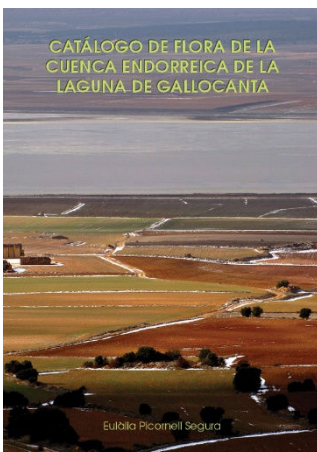
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