Requests for binding decisions

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(6) Request for a binding decision on whether Lerouxia Mérat (Primulaceae) and Lerrouxia Caball. (Plumbaginaceae) are sufficiently alike to be confused

Lerouxia (Primulaceae)
Mérat (Nouv. Fl. Env. Paris: 77. 1812) published Lerouxia to include a single species, L. nemorum (L.) Mérat, based on Lysimachia nemorum L. (Sp. Pl.: 148. 1753), which occurs mostly in western and central Europe. It was named in honour of Professor J.J. Leroux then dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris. There is a long tradition to consider it a synonym of Lysimachia. Endlicher (Gen. Pl. 2: 732. 1839) already put the name in infrageneric rank, as Lysimachia c. Lerouxia (Mérat) Endl., a treatment that was accepted at the sectional rank in comprehensive studies of Primulaceae (e.g., Pax & Knuth in Engl., Pflanzenr. IV. 32 (Heft 237): 261–264. 1905), and subsequently followed in European Floras (e.g., L. Villar in Castroviejo & al., Fl. Iber. 5: 46–51. 1997).

Lerrouxia (Plumbaginaceae)
Caballero (in Trab. Mus. Nac. Ci. Nat., Ser. Bot. 28: 13. 10 Mar 1935) published Lerrouxia, including a single new species, L. ifniensis Caball. This rare genus is endemic to the Western Sahara, and was named in honour of Alejandro Lerroux y García, who was the Spanish Prime Minister around that time. Although in the protologue it was related to Limoniastrum Heist. ex Fabr. 1759, important morphological differences were shown to warrant generic separation. Scarcely four months after the description of Lerrouxia, Font Quer (in Cavanillesia 7: 150. 25 Jul 1935) put Lerrouxia in synonymy of Limoniastrum, recombining the species name as Limoniastrum ifniense (Caball.) Font Quer. In the same work, however, Font Quer did still more: he proposed the provisional name Caballeroa as a possible avowed substitute for Lerrouxia. As such, Caballeroa is not validly published (Art. 34.1 of the Vienna Code). Besides this, the invention of the name Caballeroa was not a happy choice, because with this ‘name’, Font Quer suggested a parahomonym of Caballeria Ruiz & Pav. 1794, a genus in the Myrsinaceae.

Nevertheless, since Font Quer’s action, Lerrouxia has long been considered homonymous with Lerouxia, and under the name Caballeroa this taxon was regularly segregated from Limoniastrum (e.g., Lincevskis in Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast. 1968: 175. 1968; Mabberley, Pl.-book (corr. repr. 1989): 87. 1993). Those authors listed Caballeroa without, however, validating the name.


Conclusion
We are requesting a binding decision under Art. 53.5 as to whether Lerouxia Mérat and Lerrouxia Caball. are sufficiently alike to be confused and thus should be treated as homonyms. In our opinion, such a treatment would be the best choice towards stability of nomenclature. Reversing the current situation would result in abandoning of the increasingly used name Saharanthus, which would create unnecessary nomenclatural confusion.

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