

A taxonomic revision of *Commelina bicolor* D. Q. Wang & M. E. Cheng (Commelinineae)

Ruizhou Huang¹ and Han Xu¹

¹Research Institute of Tropical Forestry Chinese Academy of Forestry

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Abstract

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Ruizhou Huang¹, Han Xu¹

¹Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Guangzhou, China

Correspondence

Han Xu, Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Guangzhou 510520, China

Email: ywfj@163.com

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Abstract

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Key words: *Commelina* ; New name; *C. anhuiensis* ;

C. bicolor

TAXONOMY CLASSIFICATION

Taxonomy

In 2019, a plant new species, *Commelina bicolor* D. Q. Wang & M. E. Cheng, was published from Anhui Province, China (Wang et al, 2019). However, the botanical specie name *Commelina bicolor* Poepp. ex Kunth had been published in 1843, which was published as a synonym of *Tradescantia bicolor* Kunth (Kunth, 1843). *Commelina bicolor* Poepp. ex Kunth was published with the genus name spelled as *Commelyna* (Kunth, 1843). *Commelyna* Dillen ex Endlicher was published in 1836 (Endlicher, 1836) and differs from *Commelina* L. published in 1753 (Linnaeus, 1753) only in spelling. According to Art. 61.4 of the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (ICN) (Turland et al. 2018), only *Commelina* L. (Govaerts, 1999) is correct currently.

In 1895, *Tradescantia gracilis* Kunth (Kunth, 1815) was listed as the heterotypic synonym of *Tradescantia bicolor* Kunth (*Tradescantia bicolor* Kunth = *Tradescantia gracilis* Kunth) (Hooker, 1895). In 1983, *Tradescantia gracilis* Kunth was revised as a synonym of *Callisia gracilis* (Kunth) D.R. Hunt (Hunt, 1983).

According to Art. 53.1 of ICN (Turland et al. 2018) which says, “A name of a family, genus, or species, unless conserved (Art. 14), protected (Art. F.2), or sanctioned (Art. F.3), is illegitimate if it is a later homonym, that is, if it is spelled exactly like a name based on a different type that was previously and validly published for a taxon at the same rank (see also Art. 53.3 and F.3.3).” In addition, in the note 2 of Art. 53.1 which says, “A validly published earlier homonym, even if illegitimate, rejected under Art. 56 or F.7, or otherwise generally treated as a synonym, causes rejection of any later homonym that is not conserved, protected, or sanctioned (but see Art. F.3.3).”.

Therefore, *Commelina bicolor* D. Q. Wang & M. E. Cheng is a later homonym, which is contrary to the Art. 53.1 of ICN. This species name is revised as follows:

安徽鸭跖草 *Commelina anhuiensis* R. Z. Huang & Han Xu, nom. nov. — 二色鸭跖草 *Commelina bicolor* D. Q. Wang & M. E. Cheng in Journal of West Anhui University, 35(5): 71-73, Figure 4, 2019 non D. Q. Wang, Y. Y. Lu & L. Zhang W1406291 (holotype, PE).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

ORCID

Ruizhou Huang <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8642-6333>

Han Xu <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1085-3344>

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