

## THE CORRECT GENERIC NAMES FOR *SONCHUS WEBBII* Sch.Bip. AND *PRENANTHES PENDULA* Sch.Bip.

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### SUMMARY

The correct names for two Canarian Compositae, *Sonchus webbii* and *Prenanthes pendula* are discussed in the light of recent publications. The name *Lactucosonchus webbii* is considered to be the correct name for the former taxon and the latter is transferred to the genus *Chrysoprenanthes*.

### RESUMEN

Se comenta los nombres correctos de dos compuestas Canarias, *Sonchus webbii* y *Prenanthes pendula* en vistas de recientes publicaciones. Se considera como nombre correcto para la primera especie *Lactucosonchus webbii* y se transfiere la segunda al genero *Chrysoprenanthes*.

### INTRODUCTION

Two recent publications, REIFENBERGER & REIFENBERGER (1997) and SENNIKOV & ILLARIONOVA (1999) have established a new genus *Wildpretia* and a new section of the genus *Sonchus*, sect. *Chrysoprenanthes*. For different reasons which are discussed below each of these new names is considered to be unnecessary. In the first case there already exists a validly published name *Lactucosonchus* (Sch. Bip.) Svent. with priority over *Wildpretia* Reifenger and in the second case, molecular studies show that *Prenanthes pendula* Sch. Bip., though not a true member of the

genus *Prenanthes* is also not a *Sonchus* as it forms a sister clade to *Sonchus* along with *Sventenia* and *Babcockia*.

### 91.- *Wildpretia*

In *Vieraea* 25: 203-2 12, 1996 (1997) U. & A. Reifenger published a new generic name in the Compositae (Asteraceae), *Wildpretia*, which they used as a direct substitute for *Lactucosonchus* (Sch. Bip. in Webb & Berth.) Svent. a name they consider was published "without fulfilling the requirements of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature".

The publication of *Wildpretia* is most unfortunate as it creates a superfluous illegitimate name under Article 52.1 of the Code (Greuter ed. International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, Tokyo, 1994) which states that "A name is illegitimate and is to be rejected if it was nomenclaturally superfluous when published".

Reifenger & Reifenger claim to have detected irregularities in the raising of *Sonchus* L. subgenus *Lactucosonchus* Sch. Bip. to generic rank by E.R. Sventenius in 1969 (the original publication was dated 1968 but was effectively published in 1969). The rejection of the generic name *Lactucosonchus* by Reifenger & Reifenger is, however, due to a complete misunderstanding of the Code and of Sventenius' intentions. All the Code Articles cited by these authors (Arts. 32.1, 37.1, 41.2, 42.1 and 43.1) are irrelevant to the change in status of a name which has previously been validly published and refer only to the publication of new names.

Sventenius, in his publication of *Lactucosonchus* (Sch. Bip.) Svent. did all that is necessary to correctly change the status of a subgenus to genus according to Articles 7.4 and 33.2 of the Code. The name *Lactucosonchus* was originally published by C.H. Schultz-Bipontinus in the synopsis of the genus *Sonchus* which preceded his account of this genus in Webb & Berthelot's *Phytographia Canariensis* T.III, pp. 424-426, (1850). The subgenus *Lactucosonchus* was published with a description and the citation of a single species (*Sonchus webbii*) on page 426 of this protologue. Sventenius simply cited this as a basionym when changing the status of *Lactucosonchus* (Art. 33.2). REIFENBERGER & REIFENBERGER (1997) argue that Sventenius needed to comply with Article 32.1 of the Code and publish a description or diagnosis of the "new genus *Lactucosonchus* but, in fact, all that is required by the Code (Art. 32.1c and Art.41.2) is a reference to a "previously and effectively published description or diagnosis..."

A typographical error in Sventenius' reference "pp.244-246" instead of 424-426 does not invalidate the publication of the new status (Art.33.3). As can be seen from the examples 6 and 7 under this Article, much more serious errors in citation are permitted before a name is invalidated.

REIFENBERGER & REIFENBERGER (1997) also claim that the publication of the generic name *Lactucosonchus* (Sch. Bip.) Svent. did not comply with Article 37.1 of the Code requiring the type of the name to be indicated. They appear, however to be wrong on two counts. First they ignore the second part of this Article (37.2) which states that "For the name of a new genus or subdivision of a genus, reference (direct or indirect) to one species name only constitutes indication of the

type". Sventenius clearly cites *Sonchus webbii* Sch. Bip. in his protologue and, therefore, complies with this requirement. Secondly the authors of "*Wildpretia*" appear to be completely oblivious to the fact that Sventenius was changing the status of a previously published name and NOT publishing a new name and that the relevant Code Article is Art. 7. Article 7.4 states that "new name formed from a published legitimate name (*stat. nov.*, *comb. nov.*) is, in all circumstances, typified by the type of the basionym ...". In this case as a monotypic subgenus or genus the name *Lactucosonchus* is automatically typified by the only species *S. webbii*.

#### Synopsis:

In view of the fact that *Lactucosonchus* (Sch. Bip.) Svent. is a validly published name and should stand a new combination is necessary:

#### ***Lactucosonchus beltraniae* (U. Reifenberger & A. Reifenberger) Bramwell comb. nov.**

BASIONYM: *Wildpretia beltraniae* U. Reifenberger & A. Reifenberger, *Vieraea* 25, 204 1996 (1997).

This leaves the genus *Lactucosonchus* as follows:

#### ***Lactucosonchus* (Sch.Bip.) Svent. *Plantae Macaronesienses novae vel minus cognitae* 1, p.53, 1968(9).**

Syn. *Sonchus* L. subgenus *Lactucosonchus* Sch.Bip. in Webb & Berth. Hist. Nat. Iles Canaries (Phyt. Canar.) 3,2,2, pp.424426. 1850.

*Wildpretia* U. Reifenberger & A. Reifenberger *Vieraea* 25, p.203, 1997

Type species: *Lactucosonchus webbii* (Sch.Bip.) Svent.

Species: *Lactucosonchus webbii*

*Lactucosonchus beltraniae*

#### **92.- *Prenanthes pendula***

Recent molecular studies (KIM *et al.*, 1996) of the subtribe Sonchinae (Tribe Lactuceae) demonstrate that the genus *Prenanthes*, with *P. pendula* Sch. Bip. included, is clearly polyphyletic. The phylogenetic position of *Prenanthes pendula* is nearer to the Macaronesian "*Dendrosonchus dade*" than to the rest of the Mediterranean species of *Prenanthes*. SENNIKOV & ILLANONOVA (1999) transfer *P. pendula* to *Sonchus* citing carpological evidence. Their arguments are, however, weak as they are based on the similarity of the cypsela anatomy of this species to *Sonchus* (*Babcockia*) *platylepis* Webb, a taxon which is, on molecular grounds, now generally excluded from the genus *Sonchus*.

In fact, the phylogenetic position of *P. pendula*, with its "primitive" unribbed cypselas and molecular but not morphological similarity to *Babcockia platylepis* is an as yet unresolved one which requires further study. Though it is obviously not a member of the genus *Prenanthes*, it makes little sense to further widen the limits of *Sonchus* to include it. Its molecular position would, however, indicate that it might

best be treated as a monotypic new genus. This situation was, in fact, partially appreciated by C. H. Schultz-Bipontinus (WEBB & BERTHELOT, 1849) as he created a monotypic subgenus *Chrysoprenanthes* within *Prenanthes* for this species. Raising this subgenus to generic rank would currently be the most appropriate way of reflecting systematically the molecular, and indeed general, phylogenetic position of this species.

***Chrysoprenanthes* (Sch. Bip. in Webb & Berth.) Bramwell, *stat. nov.***

BASIONYM: *Prenanthes* L. subgenus *Chrysoprenanthes* Sch.Bip. in Webb & Berth. *Hist. Nat. Iles Canar. (Phytographia Canariensis)* 3,2,2: 420 (1849).

Type species: *Chrysoprenanthes pendula* (Sch. Bip.) Bramwell.

***Chrysoprenanthes pendula* (Sch. Bip.) Bramwell *comb. nov.***

BASIONYM: *Prenanthes pendula* Sch. Bip. in Webb & Berth. *Hist. Nat. Iles Canar. (Phytographia Canariensis)* 3, 2,2:421(1849).

Though SENNIKOV & ILLARIONOVA (1999) designate a syntype “*In montibus Canariae* Webb” (LE) this does not coincide with the Holotype cited and illustrated by LEÓN ARENCIBIA *et al.* (1980) from the Webb Herbarium (FI).

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