

(1680) Proposal to conserve the name *Geranium ibericum* against *G. montanum* (Geraniaceae) with a conserved type

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- (1680) *Geranium ibericum* Cav., Diss. 4: 209. Aug 1787 [Dicot.: Geran.], nom. cons. prop.
 Typus: Georgia. Bakuriani, Tskhra Tskaro, 10 Aug 1997, Gagnidze & Nakhutsrishvili 918 (MA No. 626647), typ. cons. prop.
 (=) *Geranium montanum* Hablitz ex Pall. in Neue Nord. Beytr. Phys. Geogr. Erd-Völkerbeschreib. 4: 51. 1784, nom. rej. prop.
 Lectotypus (vide Novoselova in Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast. 31: 157. 1998): Iran. “In alpib. Samamisius”, Aug, Hablitz (LE)

Geranium ibericum Cav. is a species distributed from northeastern Turkey to the Caucasus and northwestern Iran. It is a perennial herbaceous plant characterised by a ± horizontal rootstock; opposite leaves not deeply divided; a dichasial cyme with 2-flowered cymules arising along leafy stems; peduncles and pedicels with soft, long, patent eglandular hairs (and sometimes also glandular ones); and long petals with emarginate apex. Like other species of *Geranium* sect. *Tuberosa* (Boiss.) Reiche, *G. ibericum* exhibits the “seed-ejection” type of fruit discharge. In *G.* sect. *Tuberosa* the method of seed retention in the pre-explosive interval is quite different from other groups in *Geranium*, in that retention is achieved by a twist at the point where the mericarp joins the awn.

Geranium ibericum has consistently been accepted and widely used in the taxonomic literature from its publication in 1787, e.g., by Candolle (Prodr. 1: 640. 1824), Boissier (Fl. Orient. 1: 876. 1867), Woronow (in Kusnezow & al., Fl. Caucasia Critica 3(7): 29. 1908), Knuth (in Engler, Pflanzenr. 53: 110. 1912), Bobrov (in Shishkin & Bobrov, Fl. U.R.S.S. 14: 19. 1949), and Davis (in Davis & al., Fl. Turkey 2: 473. 1967). It is one of the commonest species of *Geranium* in gardens. Consequently, it has been mentioned in the most relevant gardening literature, e.g., by Taylor (in Bailey, Stand. Cycl. Hort. 3: 1331. 1919), Chittenden (RHS Dict. Gard. 2: 884. 1951), Everett (New York Bot. Gard. Ill. Encycl. Hort. 5: 1463. 1981), Huxley (RHS Dict. Gard. 2: 398. 1992), and Yeo (Hardy Geraniums, ed. 2: 152. 2002).

In preparing the revision of *Geranium* subsect. *Mediterranea* R. Knuth, *G. montanum* Hablitz ex Pall. was found to be synonymous with and to antedate *G. ibericum*. The name *G. montanum* has scarcely been cited in taxonomic works, and has never been mentioned in the gardening literature. The disparity in usage between these two names was revealed by a Google search, which returned 487 hits for *G. ibericum* and only eight for *G. montanum*. Nevertheless, *G. montanum* was accepted by Bobrov (in

Shishkin & Bobrov, Fl. U.R.S.S. 14: 20. 1949), Karjagin, Fl. Azerbaijan 6: 31. 1955), Grossheim (Fl. Kavk., Ed. 2, 6:14. 1962), Takhtajan (Fl. Armenia 6: 219. 1973), and Zohary & al. (Consp. Fl. Orient. 2: 3. 1983), all of whom also recognized *G. ibericum*. Additionally, both Parsa (Fl. Iran 1(2): 1433. 1952) and Schönbeck-Temesy (in Rechinger, Fl. Iranica 69: 18. 1970) treated *G. montanum* based on one collection from northern Iran. The two species were primarily distinguished by Bobrov (l.c.) through the presence of glandular hairs on the inflorescence in *G. montanum* and their absence in *G. ibericum*. This character is not so consistent since it varies even in the same population. For this reason collections with both eglandular and glandular specimens are not rare. Davis (l.c.) treated Turkish specimens with glandular hairs as *G. ibericum* subsp. *jubatum* (Hand.-Mazz.) P. H. Davis.

The protologue of *G. ibericum* includes “Habitat in Oriente. Vidi figuratum a Tournefortio, apud D. de Jussieu”. Cavanilles (l.c.) also mentioned “*G. Ibericum* batrachioides, minoribus foliis, maximo flore. *Tournef. corol. p. 20. Figuratum ab ipso, figura inedita*”. This phrase name nowhere appears in Tournefort’s *Corollarium* (1704), although *Geranium* are treated on pp. 19–20. The same information was given by Cavanilles in his *Geranium* treatment for the “Encyclopédie” (in Lamarck, Encycl. 2: 658. 1788). In both publications Cavanilles mentioned the unpublished drawing of Tournefort apparently shown to him by Jussieu (“Je l’ai vue figurée chez M. de Jussieu, parmi les dessins de Tournefort”, Cavanilles in Lamarck, l.c.). According to Stafleu & Cowan (Regnum Veg. 94: 630. 1976; 115: 414. 1986), a number of plates prepared from drawings of Claude Aubriet for the *Corollarium* (now in the General Library of Museum of Natural History of Paris) were published by Desfontaines (in Ann. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. 10: 218–229, 294–306, 427–433. 1807; 11: 51–57, 136–143, 160–169, 273–282, 376–383, 438–446. 1808; 12: 52–60, 111–118. 1808). Unfortunately, *G. ibericum* is not among these published plates. It is curious that Cavanilles (l.c.) did not mention any herbarium specimen, which he did for other species in this book, e.g., *G. pratense* L. (page 211): “Colitur in R. H. P.”, or *G. palustre* L. (page 211): “V.S. exemplar optimum in herbario Isnardi”. This is more surprising because a specimen of *G. ibericum* exists in the Tournefort herbarium (P-Tournefort-2315!), and another in the Jussieu herbarium (P-Jussieu-12059!). Both specimens bear a slightly different phrase name (“*G. Ibericum* batrachioides, amplioribus foliis, magno flore”) than quoted by Cavanilles, providing further evidence that these were apparently not seen by Cavanilles and thus do not form part

of his original material. In addition to the unpublished plate already mentioned, the only other original element of Cavanilles's protologue is his drawing (tab. 124, fig. 1).

In the *Flora of Turkey*, Davis (in Davis & al., *Fl. Turkey* 2: 474. 1967) provides the following citation: "Type: In Orient, vidi figuratum a Tournefortio, apud de Jussieu". However, in the introduction to the first volume of this work he comments that type localities and material are cited only "as an aid to further research" and that "when holotypes or isotypes are not specified, no inference should be drawn as to the status of the 'type' in the herbarium cited". Therefore Davis's "Type:" was not "definitely accepted as such [i.e., as a holotype or lectotype] by the typifying author" and thus his act does not satisfy the requirements of Art. 7.11 of the *ICBN* (Greuter & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 138. 2000) for designation of a lectotype. The first effective lectotypification of this species appears to be that of Novoselova (in *Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast.* 31: 156. 1998) who instead indicated the Cavanilles plate as the "Тип:". The proposal by Novoselova is technically perfect, and it could be completed by an epitype for a more precise application of the name. However, this proposal to conserve the name *G. ibericum* is a good opportunity to contemplate a simpler solution, which would be a conserved type.

In summary, the name *G. montanum* has rarely been used. Therefore, to preserve nomenclatural stability (Art. 14.2) of the more commonly used name, conserving *G. ibericum* over *G. montanum*, as is here proposed, seems desirable. If the proposal were to be rejected, the name *G. montanum* would have to replace the widespread use by botanists and gardeners of *G. ibericum*, which would be highly undesirable.

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