

A NOMENCLATURAL NOTE ON *SELAGINELLA PALLIDA* (SELAGINELLACEAE) FROM INDIA

Alston (1945) and Panigrahi & Dixit (1966) described *Selaginella pallida* (Hook. & Grev.) Spring and cited *Lycopodium tenellum* D. Don (1825) and *S. nepalensis* Spring (1850), as synonyms. But *S. pallida* based on *Lycopodium pallidum* Hook. & Grev. (1831) must be rejected as an illegitimate name under art. 64 of the ICBN (1972), being a later homonym with *L. pallidum* Beyr. ex Gaud. (1826), despite the fact that the latter is treated as a superfluous name for *L. brasiliense* Raddi (1825). Again, *L. tenellum* D. Don (1825) also turned out as illegitimate, being a later homonym with *L. tenellum* (Palisot) Desv. (1813/1814). To rectify this nomenclatural situation, Spring (1850) seemed to have proposed *S. nepalensis* Spring, what we may term now as a new name (*nom. nov.*) for *L. tenellum* D. Don, as may also be evident from Alston's (1945: 218) remark: "This is the only prostrate species represented among Wallich's Nepal collections and so it must have been Don's *L. tenellum*, the basis of *S. nepalensis* Spring... *L. pallidum* Beyrich ex Gaud. in Freyc. Voy. Bot. 1: 285, 1826 was a *nomen abortivum* (as he cited *L. brasiliense* Raddi 1825)".

The present note attempts to straighten out this nomenclatural confusion. The citations are as follows:

Selaginella nepalensis Spring in Bull. Acad. Brux. 10: 234. 1843; Monogr. Lyc. II: 261. 1850. *Lycopodium tenellum* D. Don, Prodr. Fl. Nepal. 18. 1825; *non* (Palisot) Desv. (1813/1814). *Type*: "in Nepalia, Wallich". *L. pallidum* Hook. & Grev. in Hook. Bot. Misc. 2: 389. 1831, *nom. illegit*; *non* Beyr. ex Gaud. (1826), *nom. illegit* for *L. brasiliense* Raddi (1825). *Type*: Nepal, 1820, Wallich s. n. (E, K, BM.). *Selaginella pallida* (Hook. & Grev.) Spring in Bull. Acad. Brux. 10: 234. 1843; Alston, Proc. nat. Inst. Sci. India 11: 218. 1945; Panigrahi & Dixit, Proc. nat. Acad. Sci. India (B) 36(1): 104. Pl. 1 (fig. 4), text fig. 4 (A.B.C.). 1966. *S. plumosa* var. *pallida* (Hook. & Grev.) Baker in Jour. Bot. 21: 145. 1883.

Distribution: India (Western Himalayas & Assam), Nepal.

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- ALSTON, A. H. G. An enumeration of Indian species of *Selaginella*. *Proc. nat. Inst. Sci. India* 11: 211-235. 1945.
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- SPRING, FR. ANTON. Monographic Famille des Lycopodiacees. second partie. *Mem. Acad. Sci. Bdg.* 24: 1-358. 1850.

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OBERONIA MAXIMA HOOK. F.—AN INTERESTING ORCHID FROM KAMENG DISTRICT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Amongst the live *Oberonia* collections in the National Orchidarium, one plant (the original locality not clearly known, probably from Mizo Hills), was conspicuous due

to its large size and robust arcuate nature of the inflorescence. During subsequent botanical explorations in Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, fresh and numerous col-

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