

Cyperus steudneri, a new combination in *Cyperus* (Cyperaceae)

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Abstract – The recently published nomen novum *Cyperus spiralis* Larridon is illegitimate, because an earlier epithet of a homotypic name is available. A new combination, *Cyperus steudneri* (Boeckeler) Larridon is proposed for *Kyllingiella polyphylla* (A.Rich.) Lye.

Key words – Cyperaceae, *Cyperus*, *Kyllingiella*, new combination.

Larridon et al. (2011a) recently proposed a new name, *Cyperus spiralis* Larridon, for the species *Kyllingiella polyphylla* (A.Rich.) Lye. However, an earlier epithet of a homotypic name is available, and therefore the name *Cyperus spiralis* is illegitimate. A new combination, *Cyperus steudneri* (Boeckeler) Larridon is proposed.

Richard (1850: 503) was the first to describe a plant collected by Quartin Dillon in Ethiopia as *Isolepis polyphylla* A.Rich. Four years later, Steudel (1854: 70) deemed it should be placed in *Kyllinga*, and published a new name, *Kyllinga ambigua* Steud., for it since the combination of the epithet ‘polyphylla’ was not possible in *Kyllinga* (non *Kyllinga polyphylla* Willd. ex Kunth 1837: 134). Later, Boeckeler (1870: 733) placed this taxon in *Scirpus*, and again had to publish a new name, *Scirpus steudneri* Boeckeler, since both Richard’s epithet ‘polyphyllus’ and Steudel’s epithet ‘ambiguus’ were already published for other species in *Scirpus* [non *Scirpus polyphyllus* Vahl (Vahl 1805: 274), nec *Scirpus ambiguus* Schult. (Schultes 1824: 85)]. Since both Steudel (1854) and Boeckeler (1870) explicitly cited the name *Isolepis polyphylla* and its type in their descriptions, their new names for this taxon are homotypic. Haines & Lye (1983: 43) placed *Isolepis polyphylla* in their new genus *Kyllingiella* R.W.Haines & Lye as *Kyllingiella polyphylla* (A.Rich.) Lye. Since recent molecular phylogenetic studies (Larridon et al. 2011b) showed that *Kyllingiella* is nested in *Cyperus* L. section *Leucocephali* Cherm. ex Kük. (Kükenthal 1936: 276), Larridon et al. (2011a) sank the small genus in *Cyperus*. In this last publication, a new name for *Kyllingiella polyphylla* was proposed. However, since then it came to our attention that the correct name for this taxon requires a new combination in *Cyperus* (cf. McNeill et al. 2006: Art. 11.4), based on *Scirpus steudneri* Boeckeler, which we provide here:

Cyperus steudneri (Boeckeler) Larridon, **comb. nov.** – *Isolepis polyphylla* A.Rich. (Richard 1850: 503) – *Kyllinga ambigua* Steud. (Steudel 1854: 70), non *Cyperus ambiguus*

Liebm. (Liebmann 1850: 199) – *Scirpus steudneri* Boeckeler (Boeckeler 1870: 733) – *Kyllingiella polyphylla* (A.Rich.) Lye (Haines & Lye 1983: 143), non *Cyperus polyphyllus* Vahl – *Cyperus spiralis* Larridon, nom. illeg. (Larridon et al. 2011: 352) – Type: Ethiopia, Plaine du Chiré, *Quartin Dillon R. & Petit A.* s.n. (holo-: P, barcode P00462693; iso-: P, barcodes P00462694 & P00462695).

Distribution – Ethiopia to East tropical Africa.

Description – Haines & Lye (1983: 143).

Key to the species of *Cyperus* section *Leucocephali* – Larridon et al. (2011a: 351).

Note – The holotype and two isotype specimens are available online through:

- JSTOR Plant Science (<http://plants.jstor.org> – holotype: <http://plants.jstor.org/specimen/p00462693> – isotypes: <http://plants.jstor.org/specimen/p00462694> and <http://plants.jstor.org/specimen/p00462695>)
- The Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle (<http://www.mnhn.fr> – holotype: <http://dsipho.mnhn.fr/sonnerat/apiJOIN/JH/JH20050602/P00462693.jpg> – isotypes: <http://dsipho.mnhn.fr/sonnerat/apiJOIN/JH/JH20050602/P00462694.jpg> and <http://dsipho.mnhn.fr/sonnerat/apiJOIN/JH/JH20050602/P00462695.jpg>).

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