

(110) Proposal to add a new Example to Article 38

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DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.12705/646.37>

Article Art. 38.1(a) of the *Melbourne Code* (McNeill & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 154. 2012) requires that the name of a new taxon be accompanied by description or diagnosis of the taxon in order to be validly published. However, Art. 38.3 rules that “The requirements of Art. 38.1(a) are not met by statements describing properties such as purely aesthetic features, economic, medicinal or culinary use, cultural significance, cultivation techniques, geographical origin, or geological age.” Here we are proposing to include a new Example under Art. 38.3 to demonstrate that by precisely mentioning objective character states the requirement of Art. 38.1(a) for a “description or diagnosis” can be met. We also demonstrate that, while describing flowers as “fragrant” could be considered as describing a purely aesthetic or subjective property (i.e., the odour is pleasing), it also describes an objective character state (i.e., an odour is present). The

cited protologue can be viewed at <http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/31388812>.

(110) Add new Example after Article 38.3:

“*Ex. 6bis.* In the protologue of *Ceropegia odorata* Nimmo ex J. Graham (Cat. Pl. Bombay: 118. 1839) Graham provided a very meagre statement: “Flowers yellow, fragrant; so unusual in this genus.” This does not describe purely aesthetic features because Graham precisely mentioned two character states of the flowers: their colour (yellow) and the presence of an odour (fragrant); it is also a diagnosis according to Art. 38.2 because in Graham’s opinion these character states distinguish *C. odorata* from other (although not all other) species of *Ceropegia*. The requirement of Art. 38.1(a) for a description or diagnosis is therefore satisfied.”

Acknowledgements

We thank Dr. Avishek Bhattacharjee and N.J. Turland for suggestions and refining the manuscript. The authors thank Dr. K.N. Gandhi for comments on the nomenclature of *Ceropegia odorata*. The

authors are also grateful to Prof. M. K. Janarthanam and the Head, Department of Botany, Goa University, Goa for providing necessary facilities.
