

New names proposed for *Cynanchum* species endemic to Madagascar

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Apocynaceae. Credit: Pixabay/Public Domain CC0

In Madagascar, *Cynanchum* L. is the most species-rich genus of the dogbane family (Apocynaceae). About 80 species are known there and most of them are endemic. Among these species, *C. leucanthum* (K.

Schumm.) K. Schumm. is a rather common and widespread endemic species and is currently classified with two subspecies, *C. leucanthum* subsp. *leucanthum* and *C. leucanthum* subsp. *elongatum* Liede.

During taxonomic studies of *Cynanchum*, researchers from the Wuhan Botanical Garden of the Chinese Academy of Sciences found that the long-used name *C. leucanthum* (K. Schum.) K. Schum. published in 1895 was an illegitimate later homonym due to the existence of an earlier name *C. leucanthum* Gmel. published in 1791.

According to the rules of the International Code of Nomenclature for [algae](#), fungi and plants, the researchers proposed a new name *C. neoleucanthum* Cai F. Zhang, G.W. Hu & Q.F. Wang for this Madagascar [species](#), and a new combination, *Cynanchum neoleucanthum* subsp. *elongatum* (Liede) Cai F. Zhang, G.W. Hu & Q.F. Wang, for the subspecies.

Results entitled "Cynanchum neoleucanthum (Apocynaceae), a replacement name for the later illegitimate homonym *Cynanchum leucanthum* (K. Schum.) K. Schum" were published in *Phytotaxa*.

More information: Cai-Fei Zhang et al, *Cynanchum neoleucanthum* (Apocynaceae), a replacement name for the later illegitimate homonym *Cynanchum leucanthum* (K. Schum.) K. Schum, *Phytotaxa* (2023). [DOI: 10.11646/phytotaxa.597.4.5](#)

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