

Validation of *Riccardia pseudodendroceros* R.M.Schust. ex M.A.M.Renner (Aneuraceae: Marchantiophyta)

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Abstract

The name *Riccardia pseudodendroceros* Schust. ex M.A.M.Renner (Aneuraceae: Marchantiophyta) is validated.

Introduction

Schuster provided a Latin diagnosis of *Riccardia* subg. *Dendroceroopsis* (1985: 452) and stated that the sole species included in the new subgenus was “*Riccardia pseudodendroceros* Schust., *sp. n.*” Under the intended new species name he cited details for a specimen selected to serve as the type and further stated that “The above diagnosis [i.e., that provided for *R.* subg. *Dendroceroopsis*] represents a *descriptio generico-specifica*”. Under the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants* (Turland *et al.* 2018; hereafter “ICN”) provision of a single description or diagnosis to simultaneously validly publish the names of both a genus and a species (*descriptio generico-specifica*; ICN Art. 38.5) is an exception to the requirements for every name of a new taxon to be accompanied by a description or diagnosis (ICN Art. 38.1). However, the exception only applies to names at the specified taxonomic ranks. Schuster’s simultaneously diagnosed taxa were of subgeneric and specific rank and are thus not covered by the exception. Therefore, the diagnosis provided by Schuster (1985) can be regarded as validating the name of his new subgenus, *Riccardia* subg. *Dendroceroopsis* (Schuster 1985: 452), but leaving his intended new species name, “*Riccardia pseudodendroceros*”, as a *nomen nudum* and not validly published.

“*Riccardia pseudodendroceros*” was subsequently provided with an English description and illustrated by Brown and Braggins (1989: 99, Fig. 27), who examined and illustrated a fragment of the type material sent to them by Schuster for study (E.A. Brown *pers. comm.*; Brown and Braggins 1989: 99). The fragment examined by Brown was presumably returned to Schuster, as it is not in AK (Ewen Cameron, AK *pers. comm.*). Schuster’s type, along with the rest of his personal herbarium, has been incorporated into the Field Museum of Natural History (F). However, no Latin description or diagnosis was provided (ICN Art. 39.1) presumably because they believed Schuster’s name to have been validly published in 1985. Schuster’s name was therefore not validated when the taxon was treated by Brown and Braggins (1989). Nor was it validated by Söderström *et al.* (2016), who also refer to the Schuster’s invalid publication, as no description or diagnosis in Latin or English was provided (ICN Art. 39.2).

Riccardia pseudodendroceros is validly published for the first time below, where details of the holotype specimen are cited and a description in English is provided. This is based on the subgeneric diagnosis provided by Schuster (1985) and on the description of *Riccardia pseudodendroceros* composed by Brown and Braggins (1989).

Nomenclature

Riccardia pseudodendroceros R.M.Schust. ex M.A.M.Renner, *sp. nov.*

Type: New Zealand, South Island, Paparoa Range, near Mt. Euclid, 4300–4400 ft, in tussock zone, *R.M. Schuster 84-1503* (holo: F, *n.v.*).

= *Riccardia pseudodendroceros* R.M.Schust., *Phytologia* 56: 452 (1985) *nom. inval.* [description or diagnosis not in Latin]

= *Riccardia pseudodendroceros* E.A.Br. & Braggins, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 66: 99 (1989) *nom. inval.* [description or diagnosis not in Latin]

= *Riccardia pseudodendroceros* L.Söderstr. *et al.*, *PhytoKeys* 59: 440 (2016) *nom. inval., nom. nud.*

Diagnosis: *Riccardia pseudodendroceros* is distinguished from all other *Riccardia* species by its combination of dorsal epidermal cells each protruding forming a low rounded mamilla, lacking chlorophyll, and smaller and sharply demarcated from the internal thallus cells; the thallus narrow, elongate and with an acute wing; lateral branches closely ramifying, with up to four orders of branching, branch thallus frequently one cell thick; margins of ultimate branches upturned, crispate, or sinuose.

For a complete description and an illustration see Brown and Braggins (1989: 99–101).

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