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Lectotypification of *Stylosanthes hispida* (Leguminosae)

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Summary. *Stylosanthes* is a mainly New World genus comprising about 25 species but some of them are currently poorly defined. The genus is economically important, especially for low input agricultural production systems in the tropics and subtropics. During recent research on *Stylosanthes* taxonomy it became apparent that the species *Stylosanthes hispida* had never been formally typified. In order to foster taxonomic stability within the genus *Stylosanthes*, we here propose a lectotype for *S. hispida*. Additionally, some nomenclatural comments are provided.

Key Words. Dalbergieae, French Guiana, Louis Claude Marie Richard collection, nomenclature.

Introduction

The genus *Stylosanthes* Sw. has a disjunct distribution; two indigenous species have been reported in Africa, one in Asia and the remaining species occur in the Americas (Nooteboom 1961; Mannetje 1984). The genus is economically important in tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania (including Australia) (Chakraborty 2004), where some indigenous and introduced species are used as forage, for soil cover and improvement, and in the production of concentrate feed for livestock, among other uses (Cook *et al.* 2005). The genus comprises about 25 species, notwithstanding that up to 50 names can be found in the taxonomic literature. However, some of these species are poorly delimited (Klitgaard & Lavin 2005).

Stylosanthes hispida Rich. was effectively and validly published by Richard (1792) from material collected within the boundaries of what is known today as French Guiana and it is one of the oldest published names within the genus. However, due to its morphological similarity to *S. guianensis* (Aubl.) Sw., some authors have treated it as synonym of *S. guianensis* (Mohlenbrock 1957; CONABIO 2008). However, none of the authors listing *S. hispida* as a synonym of *S. guianensis* has cited a type specimen or original material of *S. hispida*. They rather synonymised the species based on Richard's short description (Richard 1792) (Fig. 1).

During the preparation of a taxonomic revision of Venezuelan *Stylosanthes* (Calles & Schultze-Kraft 2010), it became evident that *S. hispida* (though not native to

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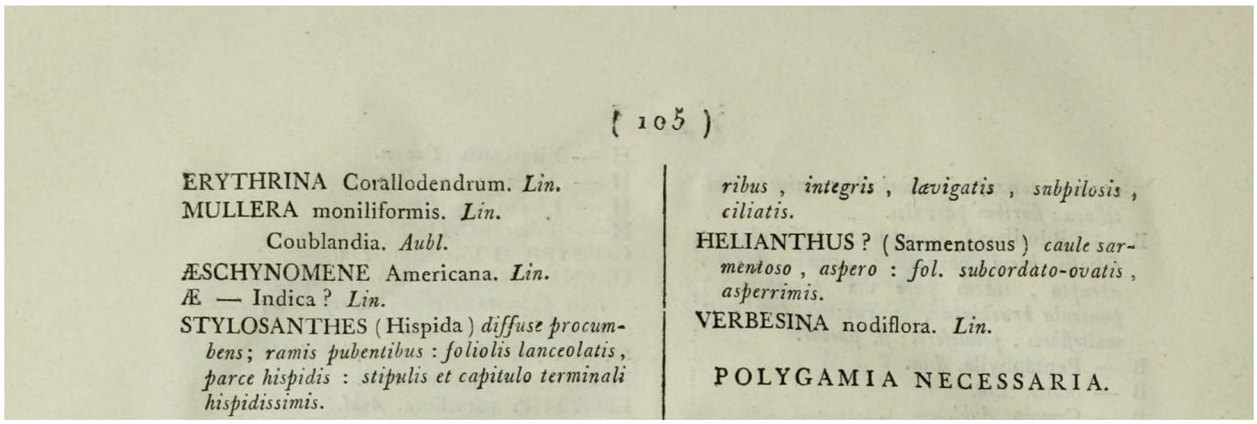
(105)

ERYTHRINA Corallodendrum. *Lin.*
MULLERA moniliformis. *Lin.*
Coublandia. *Aubl.*
ÆSCHYNOMENE Americana. *Lin.*
Æ — Indica ? *Lin.*
STYLOSANTHES (Hispida) *diffuse procumbens; ramis pubentibus : foliolis lanceolatis, parce hispidis : stipulis et capitulo terminali hispidissimis.*

ribus , integris , lævigatis , subpilosis , ciliatis.
HELIANTHUS ? (Sarmentosus) *caule sarmentoso , aspero : fol. subcordato-ovatis , asperrimis.*
VERBESINA nodiflora. *Lin.*

POLYGAMIA NECESSARIA.

Fig. 1. Original description of *Stylosanthes hispida* Rich. Richard (1792). Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitised by Ernst Mayr Library of the Harvard University.

Venezuela) had never been formally typified. According to Turland (2013), however, untypified names are potentially unstable because it might be traditional usage which is determining the application of the name rather than the type. Therefore, to foster nomenclatural stability within the genus *Stylosanthes*, we here designate a lectotype for the name *S. hispida* together with some explanatory notes.

Material and methods

Information on herbarium specimens was gathered during a visit to P and through consultation of the database in the herbarium at G. High-resolution images presented in this publication were downloaded from the websites of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (biodiversitylibrary.org) and are reproduced with permission. Literature referring to *Stylosanthes hispida* was either consulted at the library of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew or downloaded from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Barcode numbers of specimens, if available, are placed in square brackets after the herbarium acronym. Herbarium acronyms used follow Thiers (2008).

Typification

Stylosanthes hispida *Rich.*, *Actes Soc. Hist. Nat. Paris* 1: 112 [erroneously numbered as 105] (Richard 1792). Lectotype (designated here): French Guiana, *Richard* s.n. (P! [P00202653]) (Fig. 2).

NOTES. Richard (1792) described the species *Stylosanthes hispida* but without making reference either to a herbarium specimen or an illustration. Since Stafleu & Cowan (1983) indicated that Jean Baptiste Leblond's collection is deposited at G, we first consulted the database in that herbarium; however, no specimen of *Stylosanthes* collected by Leblond could be found. Then we reviewed relevant literature (Stafleu & Cowan 1983; Thiers 2008) and consulted herbaria known to hold Richard's specimens (i.e., G, P) and we found one element that is eligible to be designated as a lectotype of *S. hispida*, i.e., a specimen deposited at P (P00202653) (Fig. 2). This specimen displays a handwritten description of *Stylosanthes hispida* (most likely written by Louis Claude Marie Richard), and according to McNeill *et al.* (2012: Art. 9.3) this specimen should be considered original material of the name *S. hispida*. Since all characteristics of specimen P00202653 are in accordance with the original description and the specimen is housed in the herbarium where the author of the name worked, we designate it here as the lectotype of *S. hispida*.

In 2009, the specimen P00202653 was annotated as holotype of *Stylosanthes hispida* by the first author of this paper. However, for an element to be considered as a holotype it should have been designated as such in the original description (McNeill *et al.* 2012: Art. 9.1). Since Richard (1792) did not mention any element in his description of *S. hispida*, the specimen P00202653 cannot be treated as holotype of *S. hispida*. More appropriately it is considered as original material that can be selected as a lectotype (McNeill *et al.* 2012: Art. 9.3). Once this article is published, the authors will send the respective lectotype annotation label to the curator of P.

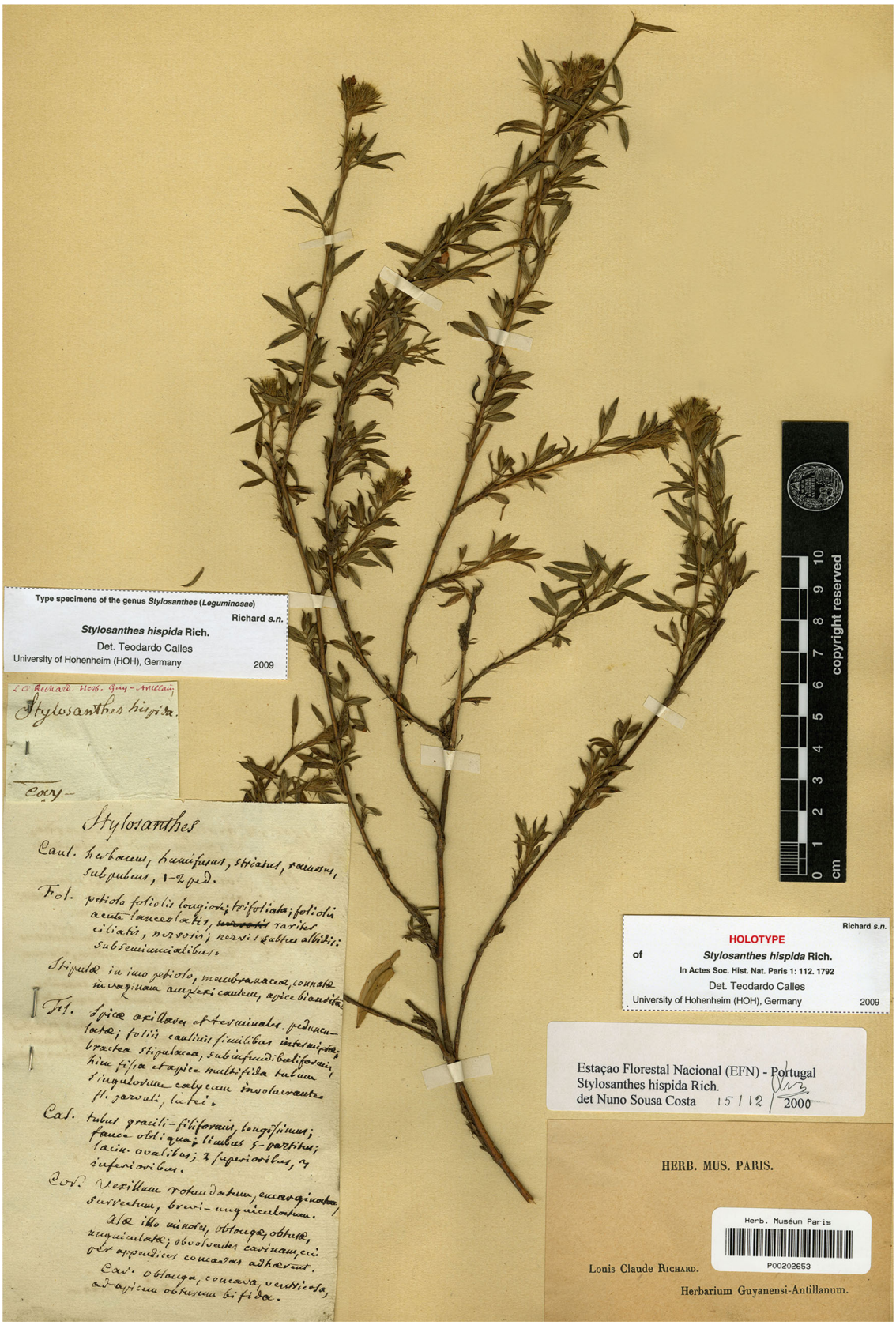

Fig. 2. Original material from Richard's collection (barcode P00202653), selected here as lectotype of *Stylosanthes hispida* Rich. Reproduced with permission of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.

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