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Typification of the Genus *Dicaryum* (Verbenaceae)

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**ABSTRACT.** The genus *Dicaryum* Willd. ex Roem. & Schult. was described in 1819 and does not have a type species. Two species were described, and one, *D. subdentatum* Willd. ex Roem. & Schult., is better selected as the type because the other species, *D. serrulatum* Willd. ex Roem. & Schult., is not a Verbenaceae but rather a Primulaceae-Myrsinoideae and belongs to *Geissanthus* Hook. f. Given the circumstances, we choose *D. subdentatum* as the type species of *Dicaryum*, which is a synonym of *Citharexylum ilicifolium* Kunth.


**Key words: Citharexylum, Dicaryum, Geissanthus, lectotypification, Primulaceae, Verbenaceae.**

In preparation for our upcoming treatment of the Primulaceae-Myrsinoideae for the *Flora of Ecuador*, we feel it is necessary to make the following typification to resolve the status of *Dicaryum* Willd. ex Roem. & Schult.

The genus *Dicaryum* was described by Roemer and Schultes (1819) based on its 2-seeded drupe, 5-merous perianth, and corolla with stamens inserted in a pilose throat (corolla tube). Additionally, two species were described within the genus. *Dicaryum subdentatum* Willd. ex Roem. & Schult. is based on a Humboldt and Bonpland specimen from Ecuador, “In Pichincha” (Roemer & Schultes, 1819: 803). This species is undoubtedly a Verbenaceae based on the characters listed in the protologue, such as opposite, coriaceous, opaque leaves with thick petioles, irregularly spiny margins, and a hard, sharply pointed apex (mucron). It is best placed in the genus *Citharexylum* L. (Verbenaceae), and specifically to be synonymized with *C. ilicifolium* Kunth. *Dicaryum serrulatum* Willd. ex Roem. & Schult. is based on a Humboldt and Bonpland specimen from Colombia, “In monte Quindiu [Quindio]” (Roemer & Schultes, 1819: 803). *Dicaryum serrulatum* has been transferred to *Geissanthus* Hook. f. (Primulaceae) as *G. serrulatus* (Willd. ex Roem. & Schult.) Mez.

Since Roemer and Schultes did not specify a type for *Dicaryum*, and the genus is essentially based on species belonging to two different families, it is necessary to typify the genus to clarify the status of this name. The selection of *D. subdentatum* as the type of the genus would avoid nomenclatural disruption. Since *Citharexylum* has priority over *Dicaryum*, and *C. ilicifolium* has priority over *D. subdentatum*, the latter name can simply become a synonym of *C. ilicifolium*. The selection of *D. serrulatum* as the type of *Dicaryum* would give it priority over *Geissanthus* (described in Hooker, 1876), a name in current use for a group of over fifty species. This would be a confusing and unnecessary set of nomenclatural changes that would cause instability instead of resolution.

*Dicaryum subdentatum* is therefore designated herein as the type of *Dicaryum*.

**VERBENACEAE**

*Citharexylum* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 625. 1753. TYPE: *Citharexylum spinosum* L.


PRIMULACEAE

Geissanthus serrulatus (Willd. ex Roem. & Schult.) Mez, Pflanzenr. (Engler) IV. 236[Heft 9]: 238. 1902. Basionym: Dicaryum serrulatum Willd. ex Roem. & Schult., Syst. Veg., ed. 15 bis (Roemer & Schultes) 4: 803. 1819. TYPE: Colombia. In monte Quindiu [Quindio], s.d. (fl.), A. von Humboldt & A. Bonpland s.n. (holotype, B-W image! [microfiche no. 4600]; isotype, P image!). Figure 2.
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Literature Cited


