

REQUESTS FOR BINDING DECISIONS ON APPLICATION OF THE CODE

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(25) Request for a binding decision on whether *Geisleria* Nitschke (*Ascomycota: Strigulaceae*) and *Geissleria* Lange-Bert. & Metzeltin (*Bacillariophyceae: Naviculaceae*) are sufficiently alike to be confused

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***Geisleria* Nitschke (1861) [Fungi]**

Nitschke (in Rabenhorst, Lich. Europ. Exsicc. 21: 574. 1861) described the genus *Geisleria* with a single species, *G. synchnogonioides* Nitschke. The genus remained monotypic until 1954, when Servit (in Blumea 7: 594. 1954) published *G. alpina* Servit, and subsequently another three species have been proposed, although two of them (*G. alpina* and *G. jamesii* Swinscow) were transferred to more suitable genera, so that, apart from the generitype, only two more species are currently included in this genus, namely *G. sbarbaronis* Servit and *G. xylophila* Vězda, both known only from their types and not recently studied (Aproot & al. in Lichenologist 46: 116. 2014). Proposals to synonymize *Geisleria* with *Verrucaria* Schrad. and *Strigula* Fr. have been criticized (Aproot & al., l.c.). Ciferri & Tomas (in Atti Ist. Bot. Univ. Lab. Crittog. Univ. Pavia, ser. 5, 10: 31, 59. 1953) erected the superfluous *Geisleriomyces*, based on the same type as *Geisleria*. The name *Geisleria* also denotes a genus of characoid fishes (*Geisleria* Gery in Vie & Milieu, Sér. C, Biol. Terrestre 12: 154. 1971). The lichen genus was named after a Dr. Geisler, a senior physician in Münster, Germany who had an interest in lichens (“Die Gattung trägt den Namen des um die westfälische Lichenkunde höchst verdienten Oberstabsarztes [“Oberstaabsarztes”] Hr. Geisler zu Münster”). Noteworthy, the genus *Geisleria* Klotzsch (in Arch. Naturgesch. (Berlin) 7: 254. 1841) in *Euphorbiaceae* has been misspelled as *Geisleria* many times in the botanical literature (e.g.; Schomburgk, Reis. Br.-Guiana 3: 1186. 1848; Sagra, Icon. Pl. Fl. Cub.: 42. 1863).

***Geissleria* Lange-Bert. & Metzeltin (1996) [Bacillarioph.]**

Geissleria Lange-Bert. & Metzeltin (in Iconogr. Diatomol. 2: 63. 1996) was created to accommodate *Navicula* sect. *Annulatae* Hustedt sensu emend. at the rank of genus. The name commemorates the phycologist Dr. Ursula Geissler (Freie Universität, Berlin). After recent additions (Novais & al. in Cryptog. Algol. 34: 117–148. 2013; Kulikovskiy & al. in Phytotaxa 177: 249–260. 2014), this genus currently comprises 78 species distributed worldwide.

Conclusion

We are requesting a binding decision under Art. 53.5 of the *ICN* (McNeill & al. in Regnum Veg. 154. 2012) to determine whether *Geisleria* Nitschke and *Geissleria* Lange-Bert. & Metzeltin are sufficiently alike to be confused and thus be treated as homonyms. Both names are taxonomically accepted and in current usage. In our opinion, the two names are sufficiently alike to cause confusion. In fact, both genera have been reciprocally misspelled in the literature (e.g.; Vagts & al. in Aarhus Geosci. 4: 53–59. 1995; Kulikovskiy & al., l.c.). This parahomonymy is caused by the transliteration of the German letter “ß” (“eszett”), in eponyms originated from the common German surname “Geißler”, in accordance with *ICN* Art. 60.4; indeed Nitschke on his manuscript label used the spelling “Geissleria” for the name that he published in print as *Geisleria*. If there is a decision to treat them as homonyms, an eventual conservation of *Geissleria* is warranted in order to preserve nomenclatural stability.

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