

## A NEW VARIETAL COMBINATION IN *MIMOSA PIGRA* (FABACEAE)

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### ABSTRACT

The new combination *Mimosa pigra* L. var. *asperata* (L.) Zarucchi, Vincent, & Gandhi is formed to accommodate *M. asperata* and *M. berlandieri*, necessitated by the priority of the varietal name *asperata* from 1806.

Application of the International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi, and Plants (ICNAPF) necessitates a new combination at the rank of variety in *Mimosa pigra* L. According to Article 11.6, an autonym has priority over the name at the same rank that established it (Turland et al. 2018). This rule determines the correct name when *M. asperata* L. is treated as a variety of *M. pigra*.

Linnaeus (1755: 13–14) published the species name *Mimosa pigra*; conservation of the name with a conserved type was proposed by Verdcourt (1989) and approved at the 1993 Tokyo Congress ([http://botany.si.edu/references/codes/props/display\\_new.cfm](http://botany.si.edu/references/codes/props/display_new.cfm) [viewed 17 Sep 2018], Wiersema et al. 2015). Linnaeus (1759: 1312) also published the species name *M. asperata*. In later works, the status of these two species varied: as *M. asperata* and var. *pigra* (L.) Willd. (Willdenow 1806: 1035); as *M. asperata* with *M. pigra* as a synonym (Bentham 1875: 437–438, de Candolle 1825: 428, Robinson 1898: 331); as *M. pigra* with *M. asperata* as a synonym (Bassler 1985: 597, Isely 1971: 420); or as distinct species (Barneby 1989, 1991: 437, 440).

For the treatment of *Mimosa pigra*, as either a variety or a synonym of *M. asperata*, Willdenow (1806), Bentham (1875), and Robinson (1898) referred to either the 1759 or 1763 publication of Linnaeus. We speculate that these authors were likely not aware of Linnaeus's 1755 publication.

Although Willdenow's (1806) new combination *Mimosa asperata* var. *pigra* is incorrect, his varietal name is valid and legitimate. As a consequence, the autonym *M. asperata* var. *asperata* was created (Art. 26.3).

Asa Gray (in Emory 1859: 61) published the binomial *Mimosa berlandieri* as a new species. Subsequent authors treated this species as a variety, e.g., *M. asperata* var. *berlandieri* (A. Gray) B.L. Rob., or *M. pigra* var. *berlandieri* (A. Gray) B.L. Turner.

Since the autonym *Mimosa asperata* var. *asperata* has priority from 1806, if *M. asperata* and *M. berlandieri* are considered synonyms at the rank of variety in *M. pigra*, then the correct varietal name must be var. *asperata*. Accordingly, this combination is made here.

**Mimosa pigra** L. var. **asperata** (L.) Zarucchi, Vincent, & Gandhi, **comb. nov.** *Mimosa asperata* L., Syst. Nat., ed. 10. 2: 1312. 1759. **LECTOTYPE** (designated by Brenan in Hubbard & Milne-Redhead (eds.), Fl. Trop. E. Africa, Leguminosae 1: 43. 1959): Herb. Linn. No. 1228.32 (LINN).

*Mimosa berlandieri* A. Gray in W.H. Emory, Rep. U.S. Mex. Bound. 2(1): 61. 1859. *Mimosa asperata* var. *berlandieri* (A. Gray) B.L. Rob., Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 33: 331. 1898. *Mimosa pigra* var. *berlandieri* (A. Gray) B.L. Turner, Field & Lab. 24(no. 2, title page verso): errata & corrigenda. 1956. **LECTOTYPE** (designated by Isely 1971: 420): "Environs of Matamoros," *Berlandier 3146* (GH).

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