

THE SPECIFIC EPITHET OF THE PECAN. — According to Article 73 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Regnum Vegetabile 8: 46. 1956), "The original spelling of a name or epithet must be retained, except that typographic or orthographic errors should be corrected." Fernald (Rhodora 49: 194-196. 1947) showed that *Juglans illinoensis* of Wangenheim (Beytr. z. deutsch. holzg. Forstwiss. Nordam. Holz. 54. 1787) is the earliest valid name for the pecan. Koch (Dendrologie 1: 593. 1869) transferred *Juglans illinoensis* to *Carya*, but altered the spelling of the specific epithet to *illinoënsis*. Koch's version of the epithet (with or without the diaeresis) is the one now universally used — in violation of Article 73 — in North American botany. Rehder (Journ. Arn. Arb. 22: 572. 1941) expressed the opinion that the spelling *illinoensis* used by Wangenheim is possibly "a typographical error or . . . a slip of the pen." Such would not seem to be the case because *illinoensis* occurs at least twice in Wangenheim's work: in the description of the "Illinois Walnut Tree" on page 54, and in the running head on page 55. *Illinoensis* was surely intentionally spelled so. Admittedly, Wangenheim's spelling is perhaps not the best for a Latin adjective derived from a French word. "Illinoisensis" or even "illinoensis" may be preferred, although there would appear to be no hard and fast rule for the Latinization of a word such as Illinois. All this is beside the point, however. The fact remains that Wangenheim used *illinoensis* and that this spelling must, according to the Code, be retained. The scientific name of the pecan is *Carya illinoensis*, not *C. illinoensis*. — JOHN W. THIERET, CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.



Thieret, John W. 1961. "The specific epithet of the pecan." *Rhodora* 63, 296–296.

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