

## ORTHOGRAPHY OF CERTAIN SPECIFIC EPITHETS

by

J. H. WILLIS,

National Herbarium of Victoria.

Occasionally it becomes obvious that a mis-spelling of some name (not intended by its author or due to his ignorance) is being perpetuated. In the following four names of Australian plants, the specific epithets can be categorized as unintentional "typographic or orthographic errors" and their correction is allowed under Article 82 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Stockholm, 1950). In each instance, cogent reasons are advanced for emendation of the spelling now in use:

### ASCOMYCETES.

#### HYPOCREACEÆ.

**Cordyceps menesteridis** F. Muell. & Berk. in *Gdnrs' Chron.* ser. 2, 10: 791, fig. 130 (1878).

M. J. Berkeley remarked (*l.c.*) "Baron Müller has lately sent us . . . from the banks of the Yarra near Melbourne, gathered by Mr. C. French on the caterpillar of *Menesteris laticollis* Boisd." There is no such insect genus as "*Menesteris*"; but a tenebrionid beetle called *Meneristes laticollis* Boisd. does occur in Victoria, and this is clearly the host species intended by Berkeley (who probably misconstrued a handwritten note sent to him by Baron von Mueller). Incidentally, the larva parasitized by this fungus is more likely referable to the widespread genus *Lepispilus* than to *Meneristes*. The specific epithet, however, should be corrected to read **meneristitis**.

A. S. Olliff (one-time Government Entomologist of New South Wales, who should have known better) also erroneously renders the spelling of the supposed host-insect as "*Menesteres latticollis*", in *Agric. Gaz. N.S.W.* 6: 407 (1895).

The spelling of *Isaria oncopteræ* McAlpine (another entomogenous fungus in the family *Hypocreaceæ*) by its author in *Proc. roy. Soc. Vict.* n. ser. 7: 165 (1895) was deliberate and excusable; but the lepidopterous genus concerned is now spelt *Oncopera*—to conform with F. Walker's original rendering (1856)—and the name of its fungal parasite should be amended to read **Isaria oncoperaæ**. E. Meyrick [*Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* ser. 2, 4: 1124 (1890)] was not justified in changing *Oncopera* to "*Oncoptera*".

### HEPATICÆ.

#### PORELLACEÆ.

**Porella cranfordii** Steph. in *Hedwigia* 28: 270 (1889).

Type of this Queensland and northern New South Wales hepatic was collected by one A. R. Crawford, who botanized in the New England district (N.S.W.), not by "Cranford"—as F. Stephani erroneously transcribed the proper name. This author later (1910) made the combination "*Madotheca cranfordii*", but the Linnean genus *Porella* has priority over *Madotheca* and must stand. Obviously the specific epithet should be corrected to **crawfordii**.



Willis, J. H. 1955. "Orthography of certain species Epithets." *Muelleria: An Australian Journal of Botany* 1(2), 90–90. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.171860>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/197826>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.171860>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/171860>

#### **Holding Institution**

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

#### **Sponsored by**

Atlas of Living Australia

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.