

ON THE LECTOTYPIFICATION OF *ASTER INFIRMUS* MICHX.  
(ASTERACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

The Clayton specimen selected by Jones & Lowry (1987) was not an available specimen and the name is lectotypified here on the Plukenet plate cited by Michaux; there is no nomenclatural consequence of the correction.

KEY WORDS: *Aster*, typification, Linnaeus

When Michaux (1803) proposed *Aster infirmus* Michx. he cited the polynomial *Aster caule infirmo, foliis acuminatis integerrimis* of Gronovius (1739: 99) and made reference to a Plukenet phrase name (1696: 56) and illustration (1691: t. 79, f. 1). The Gronovius name, and Plukenet's *Aster Americanus albus, caule ad summum brachiato*, had been cited originally by Linnaeus (1753: 873) in synonymy under *Aster divaricatus* L. Gray (1882: 164) reported that both names were based on specimens of *A. infirmus*.

Jones & Lowry (1987: 399) lectotypified *Aster infirmus* on *Clayton 143* (BM!) as no authentic material was found in Paris, and Michaux cited the phrase name proposed by Gronovius. However, there is no evidence that Michaux actually examined *Clayton 143*, nor is there any indication that Michaux was ever in a position to have examined the sheet. The specimen was not among those sent to Jacquin at Paris by Gronovius prior to the purchase of the Gronovian herbarium by Banks, nor was it annotated by Michaux.

Certainly Michaux examined the Plukenet illustration to which he made reference. The Michaux description is such that it could have been taken entirely from the illustration, but one can not preclude the possibility that Michaux saw the plant in the field or had access to some other, now lost, material.

In the past, one might have made a case for typifying the Michaux name on the description in Gronovius. In this instance, one would have had a specimen (*Clayton 143*) that could serve as a voucher to the description much as a specimen (or typotype) can be used to augment the understanding of an



illustration. In short, with supporting specimens, a description can be as informative as an illustration. However, under the present *Code* (Greuter, *et al.* 1988), it is no longer possible to select the description as the type, and a specimen, an illustration, or some other visual element must be selected.

That a lectotype, not a neotype, must be selected in this instance is clear: Michaux cited two elements. One can not use a specimen never examined by Michaux as was done by Jones & Lowry (1987) as it does not qualify as original material (Art. 7.4; Greuter, *et al.* 1988), so there is no alternative but to lectotypify the name on the Plukenet illustration as follows:

*Aster infirmus* Michx., *Fl. Boreali-Amer.* 2:109. 1803. LECTOTYPE: Plukenet, *Phytogr.* t. 79, f. 1. 1691; Typotype: H.S. 95:144 (BM!).

Fortunately, there is no nomenclatural consequence as a result of this action.

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