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WEISSISTACHYS KENTUCKIENSIS: A NEW NAME FOR
WEISSIA KENTUCKIENSE ROTHWELL AND TAYLOR

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ABSTRACT

The generic name *Weissia* Rothwell and Taylor is determined to be a later homonym of *Weissia* Hedwig. *Weissia* Rothwell and Taylor is therefore renamed *Weissistachys*, and the appropriate name transfer is made for the type species, *Weissistachys kentuckiensis* (Rothwell et Taylor) comb. nov.

In a recent article on Paleozoic fossil plant material, ROTHWELL and TAYLOR (1971) proposed the generic name *Weissia* for a new calamitean cone. It was not until the paper was in the advanced stages of publication that it came to our

attention that the generic name *Weissia* had previously been employed for an extant bryophyte. *Weissia* Hedwig (HEDWIG 1801) is the validly published and currently recognized name for an acrocarpous moss. An alternate spelling, *Weisia*, is also recognized by some authors for this latter type (see VAN DER WIJK, MARGADANT, and FLORSCHUTZ 1969). According to Article 64 of the

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International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (LANJOUW et al. 1966), the generic name *Weissia* Rothwell and Taylor is illegitimate as a later homonym and must therefore be rejected. An additional later homonym of *Weissia* Hedwig is *Weissia* Ehrh. ex Gaertn., Meyer and Schreb., Oek. K. Techn. Fl. Wetterau 3(2):94. 1802 (VAN DER WIJK et al. 1969).

We therefore change the name of the Paleozoic calamitean cone from *Weissia* to *Weissistachys* and institute a name transfer for the type species. The generic and specific diagnoses for this type remain unchanged.

Weissistachys gen. nov.

Basionym: *Weissia* Rothwell and Taylor. Studies of Paleozoic calamitean cones: *Weissia kentuckiense* gen. et sp. nov. BOT. GAZ. 132:215-224; figs. 1-18. 1971.

Weissistachys kentuckiensis (Rothwell et Taylor) Rothwell et Taylor comb. nov.

Basionym: *Weissia kentuckiense* Rothwell and Taylor. Studies of Paleozoic calamitean cones: *Weissia kentuckiense* gen. et sp. nov. BOT. GAZ. 132:215-224; figs. 1-18. 1971.

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ERRATUM

No. 3, September 1971, p. 225. For "Exothecium" read "Endothecium." The tissue region described is incorrectly termed the exothecium, a term which should be restricted to its original meaning, that is, the epidermis of the anther. The underlying layer or cells with secondary wall thickening is the endothecium.