

***Thymus* subsect. *Maroccani* Nachychko, nom. nov.**

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Abstract: A new replacement name *Thymus* subsect. *Maroccani* Nachychko, nom. nov. for an illegitimate name *Thymus* subsect. *Thymbropsis* Jalas ex R. Morales is proposed. Its main synonymy and nomenclatural type are given.

Keywords: *Thymus* subsect. *Thymbropsis*, Lamiaceae, nomenclature.

Introduction

The genus *Thymus* L. (Menthaeae, Lamiaceae) is a taxonomically critical group of plants. At present, there is no consensus on the number and scope of *Thymus*-species and the genus' system is far to completion. All this manifests in the vague and sufficiently complicated nomenclature which is used for designation of taxonomic groups within the genus. The system of the genus *Thymus* L. proposed by J. JALAS & K. KALEVA (1970), with additions and modifications of J. JALAS (1971) & R. MORALES (1986, 1989, 1997), is generally accepted for today. According to this system the genus *Thymus* L. is represented by eight sections and 14 subsections. In this system the subsection *Thymus* subsect. *Thymbropsis* Jalas ex R. Morales (sect. *Hyphodromi* (A. Kern.) Halácsy) is considered as one of the genus' subdivisions which includes 15 species distributed predominantly in the North Africa and West Asia (MORALES 1997). However, this subsection's name we consider to be illegitimate.

Material and methods

To select a certain system of the genus *Thymus* L. during its study in the flora of Western Ukraine, we have conducted a critical review of existing systems of the genus (JALAS & KALEVA 1970; JALAS 1971; MENITSKY 1973a, 1973b;

MORALES 1986, 1997). In the course of this review the nomenclature revision of supraspecific taxa according to the International code of nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN) (MCNEILL & al. 2012) was performed.

Results and discussion

As a result of critical revision of the genus *Thymus* L. systems it was established that the name of subsection *T.* subsect. *Thymbropsis* Jalas ex R. Morales is illegitimate. For the first time the taxon in the rank of subsection with the name "*Thymbropsis*" was cited by J. JALAS & K. KALEVA (1970). However, in the work of the authors this name appears as a nomen nudum, since it is given without a diagnosis. In 1973 under the name "*Thymbropsis*" the taxon was described by Ju. L. Menitsky in the rank of section: *T.* sect. *Thymbropsis* Menitsky, Bot. Zhurn. (Moscow & Leningrad), 58(6): 798. 1973. The author designated *Thymus broussonettii* Boiss. as the type of this name (MENITSKY 1973a). Later R. MORALES (1989) gave the diagnosis of the taxon in the rank of subsection: *T.* subsect. *Thymbropsis* Jalas ex R. Morales, Anales Jard. Bot. Madrid, 45(2): 562. 1989 with *Thymus maroccanus* Ball nomenclatural type. In this case, regardless of the different rank of the taxa, the name *T.* subsect. *Thymbropsis* Jalas ex R. Morales is the later homonym of the name *T.* sect. *Thymbropsis* Menitsky according to Art. 21.1, Note 1. and Art. 53.4 of ICN. From this point of view, the name of subsection is illegitimate and cannot be used. Therefore, we propose a new replacement name for the taxonomic group identified by R. MORALES (1989, 1997) as *T.* subsect. *Thymbropsis* Jalas ex R. Morales, namely

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≡ *Thymus* subsect. *Thymbropsis* Jalas ex R. Morales, Anales Jard. Bot. Madrid, 45(2): 562. 1989, non Menitsky. 1973; nom illegit. (replaced synonym).

= *Thymus* sect. *Thymbropsis* Menitsky, Bot. Zhurn. (Moscow & Leningrad), 58(6): 798. 1973.

– *Thymus* subsect. *Thymbropsis* Jalas & Kaleva, Feddes Repert. 81: 97, 105. 1970; nom. nud.

Holotypus: *Thymus maroccanus* Ball (MORALES 1989).

R. MORALES (1989) used the term "lectotypus" for designation of the subsection's name type. This category of type was used erroneously and should be corrected as "holotypus" (ICN: Art. 9.9; see also Art. 40.3, Ex. 3).

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