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Jovibarba: A long story with a happy end

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Abstract
Eggli, U. and Nyffeler, R. 1992. *Jovibarba* – a long story with a happy end. Bot. Helv. 102: 171–173. The history of the generic name *Jovibarba* (*Crassulaceae*) is reviewed. It is confirmed that the name is usable under the ICBN and that *Diopogon* is to be treated as a synonym. The spelling of *Jovibarba* is also discussed.

Key words: Crassulaceae, *Jovibarba*, nomenclature

Introduction

The generic name for the popular 'hen and chicken housleek' has been in constant dispute for about the last 30 years. While the dust has settled recently on the nomenclatural standing of the generic name *Jovibarba* Opiz (1852), the full reasoning behind the various opinions has never been told in its entirety. The situation is complicated by the fact that not all authors accept that this taxon needs a genus separate from *Sempervivum*. Indeed, the nomenclatural problems surrounding *Jovibarba* could be elegantly avoided by subsuming its species under *Sempervivum*. All recent floristic accounts, however, have opted for keeping the two groups separate, but have arrived at different conclusions regarding the nomenclatural availability of the name *Jovibarba* Opiz versus *Diopogon* Jordan & Fourreau (1868).

The differences between *Sempervivum* s.str. and *Jovibarba* can be viewed under different aspects, and a full evaluation of the necessity for a segregate genus should be deferred until the other genera of the subfamily *Sempervivoideae* (in the sense of Berger 1930) are properly evaluated. At present it seems advantageous to recognize *Jovibarba* as a well-defined segregate within this subfamily, in line with current opinions on the generic systematics of the whole family. *Jovibarba* differs from *Sempervivum* not only in its flower morphology, but also in cytology and palynology (Parnell 1991). It will be recognized in the second edition of Flora Europaea (Parnell 1991), as well as in the (currently unpublished) consensus classification of the family developed by members of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS).

Publication status of *Jovibarba*

The name *Jovibarba* was first used at generic rank by Opiz (1852: 54–55), where he included three species (*Sempervivum hirtum* Linné*, *S. soboliferum* Sims and *S. arenarium* Koch). This work is a mere alphabetical enumeration of plants (including fossils) known at the time to occur in the territory of Bohemia and does not contain any descriptions so that all names proposed there seem to be invalid at first glance (Holub & Pouzar 1967). Accordingly, the next younger available name for the group, *Diopogon* Jordan & Fourreau (1868), was widely used in the floristic and other literature (e.g. H. Huber in G. Hegi, Ill. Fl. Mitteleuropa, ed. 3, 1963; H. Jacobsen, Sukkulentenlexikon, 1970 and ed. 2, 1981).

Webb (1963) was the first to point out the availability of the name *Jovibarba*, and Holub & Pouzar (1967) presented a full evaluation of Opiz's 'Seznam' from 1852. They pointed out that Opiz refers to a similar enumeration published some years earlier by Maly (1848). Maly's enumeration is organized systematically (in contrast to Opiz's alphabetical enumeration), and the genera are numbered consecutively. For each name, Opiz cited this number from Maly (1848). If Opiz accepted a genus not accepted by Maly, a lower-case letter was added to the Maly-number. In the case of *Jovibarba*, Opiz cited the Maly-number 595a which would refer to *Umbilicus* in Maly (1848). This must be a citation error, and the correct number (as pointed out by Holub & Pouzar 1967) should be 594b, referring to *Sempervivum* sect. 2 *Jovis barba* Koch. *Jovibarba* Opiz (1852) could therefore be accepted as constituting a valid upgrading for Koch's sectional name. From the preface to Maly (1848) it becomes clear that he based his names on Koch 1843, i.e., the second edition of Koch's 'Flora', where sect. *Jovisbarba* is described on p. 290 with a clear diagnosis. It embraces the same three species as *Jovibarba* Opiz 1852.

Unfortunately, *Jovibarba* Opiz (1852) cannot be considered as giving a new rank for *Sempervivum* sect. *Jovisbarba* Koch (1843) because the latter name is illegitimate (ICBN Art. 64), being predated by sect. *Jovibarba* De Candolle (1828) with a somewhat different circumscription. Perusal of Koch (1843) shows that his sect. *Jovisbarba* was intended as a new name and is *not* based on *Sempervivum* sect. *Jovibarba* De Candolle (1828), as already pointed out by Holub & Pouzar (1967).

It is, therefore, necessary to treat *Jovibarba* Opiz (1852) as a new name, based on the illegitimate *Sempervivum* sect. *Jovisbarba* Koch (1843). This is certainly stretching the concept of 'indirect reference' (ICBN Art. 32.3, 32.4) to its limits, but despite the small bibliographic error made by Opiz (citing the Maly number 595a instead of 594b) and the fact that the reference is twice indirect, *Jovibarba* Opiz (1852) should be accepted as being validly published. This conclusion is supported by Webb (1963; for Flora Europaea), Holub & Pouzar (1967), and Parnell & Favarger (1990).

Typification

Jovibarba Opiz was not yet typified when ING was compiled. Later, Borissova (1969: p. 113) selected *Sempervivum hirtum* Linné as lectotype, and this typification should be followed.

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* The author of this taxon is frequently given as 'Juslenius', but according to Parnell & Favarger (1990: 219), it was in fact published by Linné and not by his student Juslenius.

The spelling of *Jovibarba*

The final problem to discuss in the *spelling* of the name *Jovibarba*. It will have been noted that the spelling of the sectional name as used by De Candolle (1828, *Jovibarba*) and Koch (1843, *Jovisbarba*) differs very slightly. On linguistic grounds the latter, i.e. *Jovisbarba*, seems to be the more correct variant (from lat. Iuppiter, gen. Iovis, cf. Genaust 1983). However, it was customary in recent years to follow the spelling used by Opiz (1852), which can be treated as intentional. In order to avoid another unpleasant change in the spelling of a generic name, this should be followed.

It is interesting to note in this context that Koch used the spelling *Jovisbarba* only once (Koch 1843); in all his other contributions he consistently used *Jovibarba* (Koch 1837, 1846, 1848, 1851).

Zusammenfassung

Die Geschichte des Gattungsnamens *Jovibarba* (Crassulaceae) wird diskutiert und es wird bestätigt, daß der Name unter den Regeln des ICBN gültig beschrieben ist, und daß *Diopogon* als Synonym betrachtet werden muß. Zudem wird die Schreibweise von *Jovibarba* diskutiert.

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