

## Article

### Nomenclatural note on a Brazilian aroid

I.M. Turner<sup>1, 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Singapore Botanical Liaison Officer, Identification & Naming, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE, UK. E-mail: [i.turner@kew.org](mailto:i.turner@kew.org)

<sup>2</sup> Singapore Botanic Gardens, National Parks Board, 1 Cluny Road, Singapore 259569

Received: 23 July 2017 | Accepted by Rafaël Govaerts: 19 September 2017 | Published on line: 29 September 2017

#### Abstract

The correct name for the Brazilian species of Araceae known as *Asterostigma lividum* (G.Lodd.) Engl. is shown to be *Asterostigma luridum* (Kunth) Kuntze. A lectotype is designated.

**Key words:** *Asterostigma*, Brazil, description, *Philodendron*, typification

*The Botanical Cabinet* was a periodical published by the London nursery firm of Conrad Loddiges and Sons between 1817 and 1833 (Turner, 2016). It consisted of drawings of plants from their nursery with brief notes about each species. Many new names were published in the *Botanical Cabinet*, but the accompanying text often contained so little descriptive content that the names are not validly published. Among many such questionable names, *Caladium lividum* G.Lodd., that of an aroid introduced from Brazil, was the subject of a request for a binding decision on whether the descriptive statement was adequate to validate the name (Turner, 2015: 1333). The relevant committees both voted that, in this case, the descriptive statement was not adequate (Applequist, 2017: 1162; Wilson, 2017: 480). *Caladium lividum* G.Lodd. is therefore considered a *nomen nudum*. I have not found any later validation of Loddiges's name. In the 1839 edition of *Sweet's Hortus Britannicus*, George Don attempted to transfer Loddiges's name to *Acontias*, but as he provided no description, this combination is not validly published. Don also seems to have started repeated confusion over the epithet. While Loddiges definitely employed 'lividum,' Don cited this as 'luridum' and used this for the name in *Acontias*. He was next followed by Kunth, who listed *Philodendron ? luridum* in volume 3 of his *Enumeratio Plantarum* in 1841, citing 'Caladium luridum Loddig.' as a synonym. Kunth did include a description, so *Philodendron luridum* Kunth is validly published as the name of a new species. As ICN (McNeill *et al.*, 2012) Art. 60.3 cautions against correcting original spelling, I maintain the use of 'luridum.'

The plant is now considered a member of the genus *Asterostigma* (Engler, 1920; Gonçalves, 1999), and the first valid transfer of Kunth's name to that genus was by Kuntze.

Kunth did not cite any specimens under *Philodendron luridum*. He may well have based his description entirely on the plate in the *Botanical Cabinet*. I therefore here select the plate as the lectotype for *Philodendron luridum*.

*Asterostigma luridum* (Kunth) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 740. 1891.

Basionym: *Philodendron luridum* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 3: 50. 1841.

≡ *Caladium lividum* G.Lodd., Bot. Cab. 16(9): t. 1590. 1830, nom. nud. ≡ *Acontias luridum* G.Don., Hort. Brit. [Sweet], ed. 3. 632. 1839, nom. nud.

**Type:** ‘*Caladium lividum*’ Bot. Cab. 16(9): t. 1590. 1830 [Jun 1830] (lectotype **designated here**).

## References

**Applequist, W.L.** 2016. Report of the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants: 68. *Taxon* 65: 1153–1165.

**Engler, A.** 1920. Araceae-Aroideae und Araceae-Pistioideae. *Das Pflanzenreich* IV, 23F(73): 1–274.

**Gonçalves, E.G.** 1999. A revised key for the genus *Asterostigma* C. A. Fisch. & Mey. (Araceae: Tribe Spathicarpeae) and a new species from Southeastern Brazil. *Aroideana* 22: 30–33.

**McNeill, J., Barrie, F.R., Buck, W.R., Demoulin, V., Greuter, W., Hawksworth, D.L., Herendeen, P.S., Knapp, S., Marhold, K., Prado, J., Prud'homme van Reine, W.F., Smith, G.F., Wiersema, J.H. and Turland, N.J.** 2012. International code of nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (Melbourne Code). Königstein: Koeltz Scientific Books.

**Turner, I.M.** 2015. (30-41) Requests for binding decisions on the descriptive statements associated with 12 species in Conrad Loddiges and Sons’ *The Botanical Cabinet*. *Taxon* 64: 1333–1335.

**Turner, I.M.** 2016. Rather for the nomenclaturist than for the scientific botanist: the *Botanical Cabinet* of Conrad Loddiges & Sons. *Taxon* 65: 1107–1149.

**Wilson, K.L.** 2017. Report of the General Committee: 17. *Taxon* 66: 478–480.-