



**(1412) Proposal to Conserve the Name *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. (Musci)  
against *Braunia* Hornsch. (Musci)**

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**(1412) Proposal to conserve the name *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. (*Musci*) against *Braunia* Hornsch. (*Musci*)**

Efraín De Luna<sup>1</sup>

(1412) *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. in Bruch & al., Bryol. Europ. 3: 159. Apr 1846 [*Musci*], *nom. cons. prop.*

Type: *Braunia sciuroides* (Bals.-Criv. & De Not.) Bruch & Schimp. (*Anictangium sciuroides* Bals.-Criv. & De Not.).

(H) *Braunia* Hornsch. in Jahrb. Wiss. Krit. 1828(1): 467. Mar 1828 [*Musci*], *nom. rej. prop.*

Type: *Neckera pennata* Hedw.

*Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. is one of four genera comprised in the acrocarpous moss family *Hedwigiaceae* (De Luna in Syst. Bot. 20: 347-373. 1995). The first *Braunia* species to be published was *Hedwigia secunda* Hook. (*Musci* Exot. 1: 46. 1818), based on material collected in Mexico. The second, *B. alopecura* (Brid.) Limpr., was originally placed in *Leucodon* as *L. alopecurus* Brid. (*Muscol. Recent., Suppl.* 4: 135. 1818). Two additional species, *Anictangium sciuroides* (in Mem. Reale Accad. Sci. Torino 40: 345. 1838) and *H. squarrulosa* Hampe (in *Linnaea* 12: 349. 1838), had been described by the time *Braunia* was established, when combinations were made to accommodate two of the prior species: *B. secunda* (Hook.) Bruch & Schimp. (in Bruch & al., l.c.: 161) and *B. sciuroides* (l.c.), and a new one added: *B. schimperi* Bruch & Schimp. (l.c.: 162, t. 275, f. A-B). The genus was dedicated to Alexander Braun (1805-1877), Director of the Berlin Botanic Garden.

Subsequently, several bryologists accepted the genus *Braunia*, adding to it newly described or transferred species, e.g. Lorentz (*Moosstudien*: 164. 1864; one new species from Mexico); Müller (in *Linnaea* 42: 377-380. 1879; three species from Argentina); Limpricht (*Laubm. Deutschl.* 1: 824. 1889; transfer of *Leucodon alopecurus*). Jaeger (in *Ber. Thätigk. St. Gallischen Naturwiss. Ges.* 1874-1875: 170-172. 1876) listed 13 known species world-wide in *Braunia*. In Brotherus (in Engler & Prantl, *Nat. Pflanzenfam.* 1(3): 717. 1905) the species number had risen to 24. In modern times, *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. has been regularly accepted in floristic lists for several regions, e.g. by Bartram (in *Fieldiana, Bot.* 25: 233-235. 1949, for Guatemala; and in *Rev. Bryol.* 33: 323-327. 1965, for Argentina), Chopra (*Taxon. Ind. Mosses*, 1975, for India), Robinson & al. (in *Lindbergia* 4: 105-116. 1977, for American species of *Braunia* subg. *Braunia*), Yano (in *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 50: 345. 1981, for Brazil), Kis (*Mosses S.-E. Trop. Africa*: 87. 1985, for tropical Africa), Biasuso (in *Lilloa* 38: 5-21. 1992, for Argentina), and Churchill & Linares (*Prodr. Bryol. Novo-Granat.* 2: 467. 1995, for Colombia). Modern comprehensive lists of genera of mosses also maintained *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. (Crosby & Magill, *Dict. Mosses* 4, 1977; Vitt in Schuster, *New Man. Bryol.* 2: 750. 1984; Crosby & al. in *Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 42: 58. 1992).

Despite its wide use, *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. is an illegitimate later homonym (Art. 53.1) of *Braunia* Hornsch., a name that has never been adopted, nor even cited

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in synonymy, by any subsequent author, with a single exception: Margadant (Early Bryol. Lit.: 167. 1968) noted it as the validly published name of a new genus, but this remark was completely ignored ever since. Wijk & al. make no mention of *Braunia* Hornsch. in *Index muscorum* (in *Regnum Veg.* 17: 231. 1959, or elsewhere in that comprehensive index), nor do Crosby & Magill (l.c.), Crosby & al. (l.c.) or Crosby & Magill (in *Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 50: 8. 1994; 62: 11. 1997). The *Index nominum genericorum* (Farr & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 101: 234. 1979) lists only *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. plus two later homonyms (one fungal and one fossil) that are irrelevant in the present context.

In fact, Margadant, in his 1968 note drawing attention to Hornschuch's (l.c.: 465-472) extensive review of Bridel's *Bryologia universa*, misinterpreted that text when he referred to "Hornschuch's ... *Braunia* (based on *Neckera* subg. *Distichia*, col. 467)". Hornschuch did not raise Bridel's "subgenus" to generic rank. He created his new genus for only one of the eight species included by Bridel in that taxon: *Neckera pennata*. Thus, neither Bridel's subgeneric description [which refers to a different taxon] nor an extant description of *N. pennata* [not being in an appropriate rank] can be accepted as validating the generic name (Art. 41.2). Nevertheless, *Braunia* Hornsch. is valid. Hornschuch (l.c.) wrote: "Die zu Letzterer [i.e., *Distichia*] gehörende *Neckera pennata* muss von *Neckera* getrennt werden, da sie nur ein einfaches, aus 16 Zähnen bestehendes Peristom hat, und zu einer eigenen Gattung erhoben werden, für welche wir den Namen *Braunia* vorschlagen." – which in essence translates to: *Neckera pennata* must be split off from *Neckera*, as it possesses only a simple peristome of 16 teeth, and raised to its own genus for which we propose the name *Braunia*. The phrase between commas is nothing less than a diagnosis of the new genus, and corresponds to Bridel's description of *N. pennata* as having "an ephemeral inner peristome, the tiniest of all species, most often lacking altogether".

*Braunia* Hornsch. antedates *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp. A new generic name and dozens of new combinations would be required if strict priority were to be applied. To avoid this, we propose the conservation of *Braunia* Bruch & Schimp., since (1) the earlier name was never used and cannot ever come into use (as *Neckera pennata* is the conserved type of *Neckera*); and (2) the later homonym is in universal use, both in the literature and in herbaria.

There is an earlier similar name, *Braunea* Willd. 1806 (*Menispermaceae*), that might perhaps be considered as a confusingly similar parahomonym of *Braunia*. It is, however, a rejected heterotypic synonym of *Tiliacora* Colebr., so that it is unlikely that it can cause actual confusion. In view of Art. 14.10, *Braunea* can be no threat to a conserved *Braunia*, but the Committee may nevertheless consider adding it as a listed *nomen rejiciendum* for the sake of clarity.