

*GYMNOCARPIO DRYOPTERIDIS-ABIETION LASIOCARPAE*  
NOMEN DUBIUM ET NOMEN AMBIGUUM  
*Gymnocarpio dryopteridis-Abietion lasiocarpae nomen*  
*dubium et ambiguum*

Salvador RIVAS-MARTÍNEZ\*, Daniel SÁNCHEZ-MATA\*\* & Manuel COSTA\*\*\*

\* *Phytosociological Research Center, J.M. Usandizaga, 46. E-28409 Los Negrales, Madrid, España.* rivas-martinez.cif@tsai.es.

\*\* *Departamento de Biología Vegetal II (Botánica). Facultad de Farmacia. Universidad Complutense. E-28040 Madrid, España.* dsmata@eucmax.sim.ucm.es.

\*\*\* *Jardín Botánico, Beato Gaspar de Bono, 6. Universidad de Valencia. E-46008 Valencia, España.* manuel.costa@uv.es

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The alliance *Gymnocarpio dryopteridis-Abietion lasiocarpae* Wali & Krajina ex Peinado, Aguirre & Cruz 1998 (*Plant Ecology* 137: 192), is supported by the association *Gymnocarpio dryopteridis-Abietetum lasiocarpae* Wali & Krajina ex Peinado, Aguirre & Cruz 1998 (*l.c.*), which has as its nomenclatural type (*lectotypus in* PEINADO & *al., op. cit.*: 193) the relevé number 1 included in table 6 of the invalidly published name association –(art. 10 of the current issue of the Code of the Phytosociological Nomenclature, BARKMAN & *al., Vegetatio* 67: 145-195. 1986; CPN)– *Gymnocarpio (dryopteridis)-Oplopanaco (horridi)-Abieto (lasiocarpae)-Piceetum glaucae* Wali & Krajina 1973 (*Vegetatio* 26(4-6): 258). PEINADO & *al. (l.c.)* publish no relevés belonging to the new association they validate, nor any relevés of their synonymized association, *Ptilio (cristae-castrensis)-Gymnocarpio (dryopteridis)-Abieto (lasiocarpae)-Piceetum glaucae* Wali & Krajina (*l.c.*). This situation makes it necessary to consider the selected relevé (number 1) as the obliged nomenclatural type and the protologue of the Wali & Krajina invalid association as the only diagnostic reference.

RIVAS-MARTÍNEZ, SÁNCHEZ-MATA & COSTA (*Itinera Geobotanica* 12: 56. 1999; 30.06.99) propose as *nomen dubium* (art. 37, 38), the name of the alliance *Gymnocarpio dryopteridis-Abietion lasiocarpae* Wali & Krajina *ex* Peinado & *al.* 1998 (art. 37 CPN) as the supported type-relevé, selected by PEINADO & *al.* (*l.c.*), is incompatible with the Wali & Krajina protologue (*l.c.*). The reason is the abundance of the characteristic species of the secondary deciduous forests of the order *Betulo papyriferae-Populetales tremuloidis* Rivas-Martínez, Sánchez-Mata & Costa 1999 such as *Alnus viridis* (Vill.) Lam. & DC. subsp. *sinuata* (Regel) A. & D. Löve y *Betula papyrifera* Marsh., and also the absence of *Oplopanax horridus* Miq., which the Canadian authors (*op. cit.*: 259) point out in the protologue as the dominant characteristic species.

We have now also added the article 36 (CPN) in order to reject the PEINADO & *al.* alliance name due to taxonomic corrections in the characteristic and dominant trees of this association. On the one hand, PEINADO & *al.* (*l.c.*) assure that Wali & Krajina's *Picea glauca* really belongs to the hybrid *Picea glauca* x *engelmannii* (*Picea glauca* var. *albertiana* *sensu nobis*); on the other hand, SPRIBILLE (*Phytocoenologia* 29(4): 569. 1999) when he refers to the genus *Abies* species (*teste* HUNT, *Flora of North America* 2: 359. 1993) assures that Wali & Krajina's *Abies lasiocarpa* (*op. cit.*: table 6) really belongs to *Abies bifolia*, and in consequence (art. 43 CPN), he corrects the names of the association and alliance (*Gymnocarpio-Abietetum bifoliae*, *Gymnocarpio-Abietion bifoliae*). No decisions can be made based on the precise geographical location of the places where Wali & Krajina made their relevés, as the mapped and described territory is so vast (British Columbia: 54°-56°N/122°-125°W). It is therefore impossible to decide with certainty as to the taxonomic corrections on trees belonging to the genus *Picea* and *Abies*. We reported in the above-mentioned vast territory (approx. 42,000 square Km) the presence of *Abies lasiocarpa* (Hook.) Nutt., *Abies bifolia* A. Murray bis, *Abies lasiocarpa* x *bifolia*, *Picea engelmannii* Parry *ex* Engelm., *Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss and *Picea engelmannii* x *glauca* (*Picea glauca* var. *albertiana* (S. Br.) Sarg.). Finally, we would like to point out that the territory where Wali & Krajina worked belongs to the following biogeographical sectors: Canadian Rockies (Canadian Rockies and Omineca Mountains subsectors) and Fraser Interior Plateau (Nechako-Fraser Plateau subsector), according to our recent biogeographical proposals for the North American territories (RIVAS-MARTÍNEZ, SÁNCHEZ-MATA & COSTA, *op. cit.*: 27). As a result, we hereby propose to the Commission of Phytosociological Nomenclature the application of article 36 (CPN), as the restoration of the original sense of the association will be a permanent source of confusion (*nomen ambiguum propositus hoc loco*).

Nevertheless, it is probable that at least a part of the Wali & Krajina invalid association (*op. cit.*: 258, table 6) can be assigned to the association *Piceetum engelmannio-albertianae* Rivas-Martínez, Sánchez-Mata & Costa 1999 (*Itinera Geobotanica* 12: 152) and thus included in the alliance *Piceo engelmannii-Abietion bifoliae* Rivas-Martínez, Sánchez-Mata & Costa 1999 (*op. cit.*: 141), order *Pseudotsugo glaucae-Abietetalia bifoliae* Rivas-Martínez, Sánchez-Mata & Costa 1999 (*op. cit.*: 138), classis *Pseudotsugetea glaucae* Rivas-Martínez, Sánchez-Mata & Costa 1999 (*Itinera Geobotanica* 13: 350).