
Research Article

Validation of the name *Habenaria subalpina* M.W.Chase, X.H.Jin & Schuit. (Orchidaceae)

Ramalingam Kottaimuthu

Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong-793003, Meghalaya, India

Email: kottaimuthu@yahoo.co.in; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4732-3061>

Article Details: Received: 2026-05-08 | Accepted: 2026-05-22 | Available online: 2026-05-23

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20340859>



Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

Abstract: The name *Habenaria subalpina* M.W.Chase, X.H.Jin & Schuit. (Orchidaceae), previously published invalidly, is validated here through the provision of the required full and direct reference to the replaced synonym.

Keywords: China, ICN, *Habenaria*, *Herminium*, Invalid name, new name

Introduction

To resolve the polyphyletic nature of *Habenaria* Willd. demonstrated by several phylogenetic studies (Jin et al., 2014, 2017; Ngugi et al., 2020), Chase et al. (2026) recently broadened the circumscription of the genus to include species formerly placed in *Cooktownia* D.L.Jones, *Diplomeris* D.Don, *Herminium* L., *Pecteilis* Raf., and *Peristylus* Blume. Earlier taxonomic treatments had already merged *Androcorys* Schltr., *Bhutanthera* Renz, *Frigidorchis* Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen, and *Porolabium* Tang & F.T.Wang into *Herminium* (Raskoti et al., 2016, 2017), while *Bonatea* Willd., *Centrostigma* Schltr., *Platycoryne* Rchb.f., and *Roeperocharis* Rchb.f. were synonymized under *Habenaria* by Bytebier (2015).

More recently, Chase et al. (2026) proposed *Habenaria subalpina* M.W.Chase, X.H.Jin & Schuit. as a replacement name for *Herminium chloranthum* Tang & F.T.Wang (Tang & Wang 1940). However, this name was not validly published because the replaced synonym was not accompanied by a full and direct reference, as required under Art. 41.5 of the ICN (Turland et al. 2025). The name is therefore validated here through the inclusion of the necessary full and direct reference to the replaced synonym.

Nomenclature

Habenaria subalpina M.W.Chase, X.H.Jin & Schuit. ex Kottaim., *nom. nov.*

≡ *Herminium chloranthum* Tang & F.T.Wang, Bull. Fan Mem. Inst. Biol. Bot. 10: 34. 1940.

≡ *Habenaria subalpina* M.W.Chase, X.H.Jin & Schuit., *Phytotaxa* 752(2): 173. 2026, *nom. inval.*

Type: CHINA. Yunnan, Shangri-La (Zhongdian County), 3000 m, 5 July 1937, *T.T. Yu 11920* (Holotype: KUN; Isotype: AMES [AMES00104951!], PE).

Etymology: The specific epithet '*subalpina*' was proposed by Chase et al. (2026) because only a few species of the predominantly subtropical and tropical genus *Habenaria* occur in high alpine habitats.

Distribution: China and Nepal (Chen et al., 2009; Raskoti, 2015; Raskoti et al., 2019).

Acknowledgements

I thank Dr. Kanad Das, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata and Dr. N. Odyuo, Head of the Office, Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong for continual support. I also thank Dr. Xiao-Hua Jin, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China for sharing the literature.

References

- Bytebier, B. (2025a). New names in *Habenaria* for species currently in the genus *Bonatea*. *Feddes Repertorium* 136: 65–67. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fedr.202400049>
- Bytebier, B. (2025b). Names in *Habenaria* for species currently in the African orchid genera *Centrostigma*, *Platycoryne* and *Roeperocharis* (Habenariinae, Orchidoideae). *Phytotaxa* 71: 95–100. <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.711.2.1>
- Chase, M.W., Jin, X., Christenhusz, M.J.M. and Schuiteman, A. (2026). Expansion of *Habenaria* to include *Cooktownia*, *Diplomeris*, *Herminium*, *Pecteilis* and *Peristylus* (Habenariinae; Orchidaceae). *Phytotaxa* 752 (2): 163–174. <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.752.2.6>
- Chen, S.C., Liu, Z.J., Zhu, G.H., Lang, K.Y., Ji, Z.H., Luo, Y.B., Jin, X.H., Philip, J.C., Wood, J.J., Gale, S.W., Ormerod, P., Vermeulen, J.J., Wood, H.P., Clayton, D. and Bell, A. (2009). Orchidaceae. In: Wu, C.Y., Raven, P.H. & Hong, D.Y. (Eds.) *Flora of China*. volume 25. Science Press, Beijing, & Missouri Botanical Garden Press, St. Louis, 506 pp.
- <https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.79.11215>
- Jin, W.T., Jin, X.H., Schuiteman, A., Li, D.Z., Xiang, X.G., Huang, W.C., Li, J.W. and Huang, L.Q. (2014). Molecular systematics of subtribe Orchidinae and Asian taxa of Habenariinae (Orchideae, Orchidaceae) based on plastid matK, rbcL and nuclear ITS. *Molecular Phylogenetic and Evolution* 77: 41–53. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2014.04.004>

- Ngugi, G., Le Péchon, T., Martos, F., Pailler, T., Bellstedt, D. and Bytebier, B. (2020). Phylogenetic relationships amongst the African genera of subtribe Orchidinae s.l. (Orchidaceae; Orchideae): implications for subtribal and generic delimitations. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 153: 106946. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2020.106946>
- Raskoti, B.B. (2015) A new species of *Gastrochilus* and new records for the orchids of Nepal. *Phytotaxa* 233 (2): 179–184. <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.233.2.5>
- Raskoti, B.B., Jin, W.T., Schuiteman, A. and Jin, X.H. (2016b). Taxonomic revision of *Herminium* L. (Orchidaceae, Orchideae). *PhytoKeys* 79: 1–74.
- Raskoti, B.B., Jin, W.T., Xiang, X.G., Schuiteman, A., Li, D.Z., Li, J.W., Huang, W.C., Jin, X.H. and Huang, L.Q. (2016a). A phylogenetic analysis of molecular and morphological characters of *Herminium* (Orchidaceae, Orchideae): evolutionary relationships, taxonomy, and patterns of character evolution. *Cladistics* 32: 198–210. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cla.12125>
- Tang, T. and Wang, F.T. (1940). Contributions to the knowledge of eastern Asiatic Orchidaceae. *Bulletin of the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology* 10: 30–32.
- Turland, N.J., Wiersema, J.H., Barrie, F.R., Gandhi, K.N., Gravendyck, J., Greuter, W., Hawksworth, D.L., Herendeen, P.S., Klopper, R.R., Knapp, S., Kusber, W.-H., Li, D.-Z., May, T.W., Monro, A.M., Prado, J., Price, M.J., Smith, G.F. and Zamora Señoret, J.C. (2025). International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (Madrid Code). *Regnum Vegetabile* 162. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. <https://doi.org/10.7208/chicago/9780226839479.001.0001>