

ORTHOGRAPHY OF *DROSERA SPATULATA*

Ines Schönberger

Allan Herbarium (CHR), Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln 7640, New Zealand

Drosera spatulata was first described by Jacques Labillardière in his 1805 publication *Novae Hollandiae Plantarum Specimen*. In 1820 *D. spatulata* was included in the *Systema Vegetabilium* of Schultes (1820) but misprinted as "*Drosera spathulata*", an incorrect spelling that is still common today. De Candolle (1824) also used the spelling "*spathulata*". The spelling "*spathulata*" seems to come from the similarly named *Nepenthes spathulata*. The *Drosera* species is "*spatulata*".

In almost all other botanical names for "spoon shaped", the spelling is "*spathulata*" (like *Nepenthes spathulata*). But for some reason when *D. spatulata* was first described they spelt it without the "h". Since botanical names always go back to the first author to describe the species, the correct version is *D. spatulata*.

The Latin (originally Greek) expressions "*spatulata*" and "*spathulata*" are both valid, and they can be used alternatively in an original description (protologue). But once published, it is the "original" spelling (in the line that continues of this particular word) that has to be retained.

Therefore, the name *Nepenthes spathulata* is as valid and correct as *Drosera spatulata*. Any alteration in these cases (e.g. "*Nepenthes spatulata*" or "*Drosera spathulata*") is to be treated like an orthographic error and to be corrected automatically (any nomenclaturally relevant text containing the wrong spelling has to be treated as if it were spelled correctly).

References

- de Candolle AP 1824. *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis*. Volume 1. p. 318. Paris, Treuttel et Würtz.
- de Labillardière JJH 1805. *Novae Hollandiae Plantarum Specimen*. Volume 1. Paris, Huzard.
- Schultes JA 1820. *Systema Vegetabilium*. Edition 16, Volume 6, Stuttgart, JG Cotta.

[Editor's note: This species is referred to on pages 6, 26, 38 and 39 of this Journal.]