

(2014) Proposal to conserve the name *Mespilus tomentosa* (*Cotoneaster tomentosus*) against *Mespilus orientalis* (*Rosaceae*)

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(2014) *Mespilus tomentosa* Aiton, Hort. Kew. 2: 174. 7 Aug-1 Oct 1789 [*Dicot.: Ros.*], nom. cons. prop.

Typus: “*Mespilus Cretica folio circinato et quasi cordiformi*. Tourn. Cor. 43. *Chamaecerasus Idæa* Alpini Exotic. 5. 1760”, ex Chelsea Physic Garden No. 1927 (BM No. 000602204).

(≡) *Mespilus orientalis* Mill., Gard. Dict., ed. 8: Mespilus No. 9. 16 Apr 1768, nom. rej. prop.

Cotoneaster tomentosus (Aiton) Lindl. is the second native species of cotoneasters discovered in Europe; it has been present in ornamental cultivation since its original scientific description in 1759. This name is based on *Mespilus tomentosa* Aiton, which is illegitimate under Art. 52.2(e) of ICBN (McNeill & al. in Regnum Veg. 146. 2006) as a superfluous replacement for *M. orientalis* Mill., and hence typified by the type of that name (see below). The reason for replacement was confusion in the protologue of *M. orientalis* where two elements referable to representatives of different genera, the present-day *Cotoneaster tomentosus* and *Amelanchier ovalis* Medik. subsp. *cretica* (Willd.) Maire & Petitm., were mixed up. Aiton (1789) excluded the reference to the *Amelanchier* element from the concept of his *M. orientalis* but clearly indicated that Miller’s name itself was included. *Mespilus orientalis* has been lectotypified by Sennikov (in Taxon 60: 583. 2011) by the Miller specimen cited above and is the earliest legitimate name for this species but the use of this epithet in the transfer *C. orientalis* (Mill.) Borbás (Balaton Fl.: 321. 1900) is precluded by existence of the earlier homonym *C. orientalis* A. Kern. (in Österr. Bot. Z. 19: 270. 1869), which is treated as a synonym of *C. niger* (Wahlb. ex Fr.) Fr.

The possible illegitimacy of *C. tomentosus* was already considered some years ago (e.g., Klotz in Wiss. Beitr. Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena 1982 [Beitr. Phytotax. 10]: 7–81. 1982). Another name, *C. nebrodensis* (Guss.) C. Koch, was adopted instead of *C. tomentosus* and widely promoted after its use by Browicz (in Tutin & al., Fl. Eur. 2: 72–73. 1968). The original description of *C. nebrodensis* and all the material seen from the Madonie Mts. in Sicily, the locus classicus, are referable to a narrow endemic of a different section,

C. sect. Chaenopetalum Koehne, to which this name should be applied (Hylmö in Svensk Bot. Tidskr. 87: 305–330. 1993). In spite of its illegitimacy, after a short-time break *C. tomentosus* has been returned to use in scientific and garden literature (e.g., Kutzelnigg in Hegi, Ill. Fl. Mitt-Eur., ed. 2, 4(2B): 405–420. 1994; Stohr in Rothmaler, Exkurs.-Fl. Deutschl., ed. 16, 1996; Lauber & Wagner, Fl. Helv.: 560. 1996; Karlsson in Svensk Bot. Tidskr. 91: 312. 1997; Wisskirchen & Haeupler, Stand.-Liste Farn- Bl.-Pfl. Deutschl.: 157. 1998; Blanca in Muñoz-Garmendia & Navaro, Fl. Iber. 6: 394–401. 1998; Marhold & Hindák, Checkl. Non-vasc. Vasc. Pl. Slovakia: 429. 1998; Leda in Mirek & al., Fl. Pl. Pterid. Poland: 61–62. 2002; Fischer, Exkurs.-Fl. Österreich, ed. 2, 2005; Lid & Lid, Norsk Fl., ed. 7: 469. 2005). Some other sources, like Germplasm Resources Information Network (<http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?313688>, accessed 12 March 2009) and some recent national floras and checklists (Qosja & al., Fl. Shqiperise 2: 77. 1992; Lukač in Nikolić, Index Fl. Croat. 2: 51. 1997; Micevski, Fl. Macedon. 1: 1020. 1999; Assyov & al., Consp. Bulg. Vasc. Fl., ed. 3: 136. 2006) continue using *C. nebrodensis*.

Cotoneaster tomentosus has a wide native distribution area in temperate areas of Europe, ranging from Spain to the Balkans with isolated localities in Asiatic Turkey and the North Caucasus. It is frequently present in ornamental cultivation and naturalised rather far northwards up to Scandinavia (Karlsson, l.c.; Lid & Lid, l.c.). Since the publication by Aiton (l.c.) this species has been uniformly understood and clearly separated from its relatives of the same section, although it may be occasionally mistaken for the members of *C. sect. Chaenopetalum* which also have pilose to lanate hypanthia and sepals (Hylmö, l.c.; Flinck & al. in Bull. Mens. Soc. Linn. Lyon 67(10): 272–282. 1998).

If not conserved, the familiar name *C. tomentosus* would have to be replaced by *C. coccineus* (Roth) Steud. (Nomencl. Bot., ed. 2, 1: 426. 1840), which has always been considered a junior synonym of *C. tomentosus*. The proposed conservation makes the later of the two homotypic names legitimate and available for further use, the epithet of the earlier being unavailable in *Cotoneaster*.