

(2260) Proposal to conserve the name *Piresia* against *Reitzia* (*Poaceae*, *Bambusoideae*)

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- (2260) *Piresia* Swallen in *Phytologia* 11: 152. 24 Dec 1964.
[*Angiosp.: Gram.*], nom. cons. prop.
Typus: *P. goeldii* Swallen
(=) *Reitzia* Swallen in *Sellowia* 7: 7. 1956, nom. rej. prop.
Typus: *R. smithii* Swallen

Piresia Swallen and *Reitzia* Swallen are two genera of Neotropical herbaceous bamboos that belong to the grass tribe *Olyreae* and include, respectively, five (Carvalho & al. in *Syst. Bot.* 37: 134–138. 2012) and only one described species (Judziewicz & al. in *Amer. Bamboos*: 314–316. 1999). *Piresia* presents a wide distribution in South America, occurring as a clear disjunction between the Amazon basin and the Atlantic forest in northeast Brazil, from the state of Pernambuco to Bahia (Judziewicz & al., l.c.; Carvalho & al., l.c.). On the other hand, *Reitzia* ranges in a smaller area, covered exclusively by Atlantic forest, and it was originally considered by Swallen (l.c. 1956) as endemic to the state of Santa Catarina, in south Brazil, being afterwards cited for São Paulo (Clark in Wanderley & al., *Fl. São Paulo* 1: 49. 2001) and Rio de Janeiro, both in southern Brazil (Oliveira & al. in Almeida & Teixeira, *Anais I Semin. Nac. Bambu*, ed. 2: 62–68. 2011).

In the original publication of *Piresia* (Swallen, l.c. 1964), it was considered closely related to *Reitzia*, based on glumes of fertile spikelet 3-nerved, and differing from it by glume nerves prominent, fruit pubescent and culms biform (vs. glume nerves faint, fruit glabrous and culms all alike in *Reitzia*). *Piresia* has raceme-like inflorescences in culms of two types: aerial ones, bearing broad and flat leaf blades at the top; and fertile ones, often decumbent, shorter, bladeless or with very much reduced leaf blades, usually hidden among leaf litter or even burrowing through it (Soderstrom in *Brittonia* 34: 199–209. 1982; Soderstrom & Calderón in *Biotropica* 6: 141–153. 1974), while *Reitzia* also includes raceme-like inflorescences, but only at the apex of aerial culms, partially covered by the leaf blades (Judziewicz & al., l.c.).

There are other characters described in Clayton & al. (*Grass Base*; <http://www.kew.org/data/grasses-db/www/imp08878.htm>, accessed 23 Jun 2013) that are quite similar between *Piresia* and *Reitzia*, such as the number of culms, shape and distribution of the leaves in the culms, the number and position of male and female spikelets in the inflorescences (the female being terminal, with two male adjacent), the absence of glumes in male spikelet, as well as three lodicules and three stamens.

Beside this, *Reitzia* shares with some members of *Piresia* bisexual and not typically dimorphic spikelets, being unusual among genera of herbaceous bamboos, which display predominantly unisexual and dimorphic spikelets (Soderstrom & Calderón, l.c.). This little differentiation between male and female spikelets of *Reitzia* occurs especially in species of *Piresia* from the Atlantic forest (Carvalho & al., l.c.), as well as in *Diandrolyra* Stapf, another herbaceous bamboo genus endemic to the same Brazilian biome (Oliveira & Clark in *Novon* 19: 209–215. 2009).

Based especially on the type and position of the inflorescence, Clayton & Renvoize (*Genera Graminum*: 64–65. 1986) considered *Piresia* to be close to *Diandrolyra*, while *Reitzia* was treated together with *Maclurolyra* Calderón & Soderstr. and *Rehia* Fijten. However, recent phylogenetic studies in *Olyreae* did not indicate a relationship between *Piresia* and *Diandrolyra* (Oliveira & al., *subm.*).

Ongoing studies on the systematics and evolution of *Piresia* based on multiple approaches (Carvalho, *Estud. Biosistemáticos Piresia* [thesis, UEFS, Bahia]: 232. 2013) have shown that the diversity of this genus is high, as early suggested by Clayton & Renvoize (l.c.), including at least nine undescribed species. Using five regions of plastid and nuclear DNA, Carvalho (l.c.) identified *Reitzia* as nested in a clade together with the species of *Piresia*, but without clear resolution of their relationships.

In order to resolve the status of the group as monophyletic, *Piresia* and *Reitzia* will likely be considered a single genus, and there are many more species that resemble the morphology of *Piresia* than

Reitzia. In accordance with the principle of priority established in ICN Art. 11 (McNeill & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 154. 2012), the name *Reitzia* should be adopted for the combined genus, but it would be necessary to transfer the species of *Piresia* to a genus that was formerly considered monotypic and is less prevalent in the literature due to its rarity and smaller range. Thus, to preserve nomenclatural stability in conformity with Art. 14.2, we propose to conserve the name *Piresia* against *Reitzia*.

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