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# Validation of the Name *Strobilanthes sarcorrhiza* (Acanthaceae)

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**ABSTRACT.** The name *Strobilanthes sarcorrhiza* (C. Ling) C. Z. Zheng (Acanthaceae) was not validly published in 1993 because the reference to the basionym was not cited fully. The name is validated here and represents a new combination referred from *Championella* Bremekamp. The taxon is similar to *S. oligantha* Miquel, but it differs in its rhizome thickened (vs. not thickened), petioles 0–0.3 cm (vs. 3–4 cm), leaf blades lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate (vs. broad-ovate to elliptic), lateral veins 7 to 9 (vs. 3 to 6), and spikes 2–4(–5) cm (vs. ca. 1 cm).

**Key words:** Acanthaceae, *Championella*, *Strobilanthes*.

*Strobilanthes* Blume is the second largest genus in the family Acanthaceae; it is distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia. Estimates of the species number in *Strobilanthes* range from 250 species (Hu, 2002; Carine & Scotland, 2002) to 350 (Mabberley, 1987) or 450 or more (Terao, 1983). Bremekamp (1944) divided *Strobilanthes* and related genera into over 54 genera in 27 informal groups in his monograph of the subtribe Strobilanthinae Lindau. Terao (1983) recognized a broadly circumscribed *Strobilanthes* comprising all species of Strobilanthinae. The results of recent molecular studies (Moylan et al., 2004), statistical analysis (Carine & Scotland, 2002), and pollen and gross morphology (Terao, 1983; Wood, 1994, 1995) demonstrate clearly that adequate diagnosis of the majority of groups into which the Strobilanthinae was divided by Bremekamp (1944) and others (Hu, 2002; Cui, 1990; Hsieh & Huang, 1974) is problematic and that a single monophyletic expanded *Strobilanthes* should be recognized.

In the course of revising Chinese *Strobilanthes* Blume s.l., we differ from the authors of *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae* (Hu, 2002) in regarding

the Strobilanthinae sensu Bremekamp (1944) as a single genus, *Strobilanthes*.

*Strobilanthes sarcorrhiza* (C. Ling) C. Z. Zheng (Zheng, 1993), originally described in *Championella* as *C. sarcorrhiza* C. Ling (1975), is accepted by us. However, the name *Strobilanthes sarcorrhiza* is not validly published under Article 33.3 of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (Greuter et al., 2000) because Zheng failed to fully cite the references to its basionym. The current paper validates the name by fully citing the basionym reference (Ling, 1975).

*Strobilanthes sarcorrhiza* is endemic to China and occurs in southwestern Zhejiang Province. The species belongs to the *Championella* Bremekamp group. This group is characterized by its mostly weak, decumbent isophyllous herbs, few-flowered and terminal spikes usually covered in prominent and large-celled white hairs, the bracts persistent and foliose, the calyx subequally 5-lobed to the base, and four fertile stamens. Bremekamp (1944) recognized this group as a distinct genus, *Championella*, consisting of nine species (Deng et al., 2006), and then Terao (1983) treated it as subsection *Championella* (Bremekamp) Terao in his unpublished system. *Strobilanthes sarcorrhiza* is similar to *S. oligantha* Miquel, but it differs in its rhizome thickened (vs. not thickened), petioles 0–0.3 cm (vs. 3–4 cm), leaf blades lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate (vs. broad-ovate to elliptic), lateral veins 7 to 9 (vs. 3 to 6), and spikes 2–4(–5) cm (vs. ca. 1 cm).

***Strobilanthes sarcorrhiza*** (C. Ling) C. Z. Zheng ex Y. F. Deng & N. H. Xia, comb. nov. Basionym: *Championella sarcorrhiza* C. Ling, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 13(3): 93. 1975. TYPE: China. Zhejiang Province, *C. Ling (71)037* (holotype, PE).

**Additional specimens examined.** CHINA. **Zhejiang:** Linhai xian, Kuocangshan, 1000 m, Ding Bingyang & Jin Weishan 83 (HZU); Wenling xian, Meixi gongshe, Ginkun-

shan, *Hangzhou Bot. Gard. Hb.* 4129 (PE); Yongjia xian, Huangnan xiang, Zhukeng, *Hong Lin* 2160 (HZU); Yueqing xian, Yandangshan, 10 Oct. 1915, s. coll. 945 (PE); Yueqing xian, Yandangshan, Linyansi, *C. Ling* 731505 (PE); Yueqing xian, Beiyandangshan, *Zhang Chaofang & Zheng Chaozhong* 5898 (HZU); Yueqing xian, Yandangshan, Guzhdong, *Zhang Chaofang & Zheng Chaozhong* 6203 (HZU); Yueqing xian, Yandangshan linchang, *Ding Bingyang & Zhang Qingmian* 1857 (HZU); s. loc., *Wang Kehui s.n.* (IBSC).

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