

Typification of two horticultural hybrids in *Erica* (Ericaceae).

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ABSTRACT: Lectotypes are designated for *Erica* × *darleyensis* W. J. Bean and *E.* × *veitchii* Hort. Veitch ex W. J. Bean.

KEYWORDS: *Erica arborea*, *Erica carnea*, *Erica erigena*, *Erica lusitanica*.

INTRODUCTION

In preparation for a monograph on wild and cultivated hardy heathers from the northern hemisphere, it is desirable to typify the names for two inter-specific hybrids within the genus *Erica* L.: *E.* × *darleyensis* W. J. Bean, and *E.* × *veitchii* Hort. Veitch ex W. J. Bean. These were the products of accidental cross-pollination in two separate English nurseries during the late nineteenth century, and both hybrids are extant in cultivation.

Erica × *darleyensis* W. J. Bean

This plant was first recorded in *J. Smith (Derbyshire) Wholesale catalogue* 1900–1901: 44, under the designation “*Erica mediterranea hybrida*”. It was also often listed subsequently under the invalid binomial *E. hybrida* hort. (cf. Nelson & Small, 2000).

Bean (1914: 521) published this name and provided an adequate diagnosis to distinguish the hybrid from the parent species, although, as he pointed out, these “scarcely differ” themselves except in habit. Given the nature of his book, he did not cite any specimens, but there is a specimen in **K** labelled “type” by Bean, collected in 1897. As it is probable that Bean also used fresh material when writing the protologue, this specimen is here designated as the lectotype.

Erica × *darleyensis* W. J. Bean, *Trees & shrubs hardy in the Br. Isles* I: 521 (1914): lectotype (chosen here): cult.: “*Erica mediterranea hybrida* (Smith, Darley Dale. 1895). Kew, 28 May 1897. [From Arboretum Herbarium] (*E. carnea* × *E. mediterranea*) *Erica* × *darleyensis* Bean Type!”. **K!**

Erica × *veitchii* Hort. Veitch ex W. J. Bean

This binomial was first published in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* within a report of the 14 February 1905 meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society's Floral Committee (Anonymous, 1905a), but the accompanying text cannot be construed as constituting a diagnosis under ICBN (*Vienna code*) (McNeill *et al.* 2006), Art 32.2, because it does not “distinguish the taxon from others”: “A plant nearly 4 feet high and as much in diameter The flowers are white and the habit of the plant is more like that of *E. arborea* than *E. codonodes*.”

The name was also printed within a report of the same Floral Committee meeting in *The Garden* on 25 February 1905. Again the accompanying text – “... a very remarkable plant, with white bell-shaped fragrant flowers ...” (Anonymous, 1905b) – was not diagnostic. This can also be dismissed as validating the binomial under ICBN (*Vienna code*) (McNeill *et al.* 2006), Art 32.2.

In the issue of *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, published on 4 March 1905, Bean (1905) described the plant in more detail, noting characteristics that were intermediate between those of its putative parents, *Erica arborea* L. and *E. lusitanica* Rudolphi (syn *E. codonodes* Lindl.). Thus Bean's note is deemed to constitute the protologue for *E.* × *veitchii*.

While no specimen was cited by Bean (1905), he did record that this plant had been "... sent to Kew a few years ago to be named", and that Messrs Veitch had "presented a plant to Kew, and this has grown and flowered well." Clearly Bean had seen fresh specimens both at the RHS and at Kew, and it is likely his descriptive notes were written mainly using fresh material.

There are two specimens in **K** that are associated with both Bean and Messrs Veitch and which could be candidates for selection as lectotype. A specimen of *Erica* × *veitchii* collected by Bean in the Arboretum, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on 27 March 1905, has to be ruled out as it would not have been available to him when he wrote the note published on 4 March 1905. The remaining specimen, from Vietch's Exeter nursery, received at Kew on 9 April 1902, was available to Bean and is here designated as the lectotype.

In a letter to W. J. Bean, dated 5 January 1905 (attached to the herbarium sheet; **K**), Peter Veitch made the following comment: "The name I had thought for it is *E. Veitchii* and if you approve I will stick to that." Given that this was the name used on 14 February 1905 when the plant was shown at the Royal Horticultural Society (Anonymous, 1905a, 1905b), the authority may be expanded to Hort.Veitch ex W. J. Bean, in accord with ICBN (*Vienna code*) (McNeill *et al.*, 2006) Art. 46.4. Bean (1905) did not claim the name as his, stating that "Messrs R. Veitch & Son, of Exeter, exhibited under this name a shrub ...".

Erica × *veitchii* Hort. Veitch ex W. J. Bean, *Gard. Chron.*, series 3, 37: 138 (4 March 1905): lectotype (chosen here): cult.: "No. 2. from the same Variety as the one sent last week for comparison ... Possibly a hybrid between *E. arborea* [and] *E. lusitanica*", ex R. Veitch & Son, Exeter, 8 April 1902. **K!**

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