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Author(s): Leon Croizat

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## Euphorbia intercedens Podp., a Homonym

Leon Croizat

In a paper previously published in these pages (Amer. Midl. Nat. 33: 231. 1945), I dealt with *Euphorbia Esula* L. and the forms of its affinity in North America. In full knowledge of the unsettled status of the nomenclature of this complex, I accepted at least as temporarily useful the binomial, *Euphorbia intercedens* Podp. in Publ. Fac. Sc. Univ. Masaryk 12:29. 1922. This binomial, exemplified by authentic specimens in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, properly belongs to a form which has become fairly common in North America.

My former colleague and good friend, E. J. Palmer, has informed me that *E. intercedens* Podp. is a later homonym of *E. intercedens* Pax in Engl. Jahrb. 34:75. 1905, which latter is validly published. Accordingly, Podpera's name has no status in legitimate nomenclature.

This circumstance is much to be regretted, for it places me before unwelcome alternatives. Long years may elapse before it proves feasible even to begin the work of basic revision necessary to put the classification of *E. Esula* L. and its vast alliance on a sound taxonomic and nomenclatural footing. During this time, it is altogether likely that the majority of classifying botanists will feel strong repugnance against accepting, and using, a name which is tainted by notorious illegitimacy. It is probable, on the other hand, that a final reckoning will show that Podpera's entity, his *E. intercedens*, is synonymous with some obscure species published long ago by Schur, or another local taxonomist.

Weighing these alternatives, and considering that hardly anything can be authoritatively done on these forms in the near future; taking into account the extreme difficulty of locating original types and isotypes, and the doubts necessarily attending the interpretation of brief and obscure descriptions contributed by Silesian, Austrian, Transylvanian, Hungarian authors, etc.; it seems now to me that the lesser evil consists in substituting for Podpera's binomial a new one which should be free from patent illegitimacy. This name may be used for reference by American taxonomists, and other botanists, with the immediate assurance that it can be connected to specimens deposited in a well known herbarium of the United States. If this name should later on fall under a stringent revision of the "*Esula* complex" throughout the world, it still will have served its immediate purpose. Accordingly, I propose:

### *Euphorbia Podperae* Croiz. nom. nov.

*E. intercedens* Podp. in Publ. Fac. Sc. Univ. Masaryk 12:29. 1922; Domin, Pl. Cecosl. En. 77. 1935 — non *E. intercedens* Pax in Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 34:75. 1905.

Elsewhere I have dealt with forms of the "*Esula* complex" in a publication (Jour. Japanese Bot. 17:573. 1941) which I have only recently seen, thanks to my good friend Dr. H. Hara of Tokyo Imperial University, Tokyo, Japan. In this paper (October 1941), I refer to *E. virgata* Wald. & Kit. (in op. cit. 575) as illegitimate. This conclusion was later modified in the paper published in these pages (January 1945), as it may not be necessary to reject this binomial entirely.

MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y CRIA,  
CARACAS, D. F., VENEZUELA.