

## EUPHORBIA MACULATA: A REJOINDER<sup>1</sup>

LEON CROIZAT

In his comments (Bull. Torrey Club **74**: 332. 1947) upon my notes (Bull. Torrey Club **74**: 153. 1947) concerning the proper application of *Euphorbia maculata* L., Fosberg charges me with being guilty of what he calls a curious oversight, because I failed to pay attention to a putative "typification" of *E. maculata* effected by Linnaeus in the *Mantissa*.

The readers of the discussion between Fosberg and myself would be poorly served, I believe, if this charge were allowed to stand. It is a fact that I have not discussed the "typification" of the *Mantissa*, and even less deemed it relevant, for the reason that I hold to the opinion that in the *Mantissa* no typification was ever made, as Fosberg believes. In the *Mantissa*, Linnaeus merely added one more reference to the garbled synonymy of the *Species Plantarum*.

I am not alone in this opinion, for this opinion is shared by Boissier, a taxonomist of unusual discrimination and ability, and the uncounted thousands of taxonomists who, implicitly or explicitly, have constantly accepted *E. maculata* in the sense I myself hold.

Finally, I should like to point out that stability of nomenclature is one of the keystones of the *Rules*. Botanists who believe that Fosberg has a case, after all, are bound to notice that only *absolute proof* that the previous sense of *E. maculata* is illegitimate may justify their rejecting this sense in order to follow the proposed new usage. No such proof has been created by the assertion that I have supposedly overlooked a text which I, and many other botanists, deem irrelevant.

MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y CRÍA, DEPARTAMENTO DE  
INVESTIGACIONES FORESTALES  
CARACAS, D. F., VENEZUELA

<sup>1</sup> The editor believes that no good purpose will be served by prolonging this controversy in these pages, unless new facts are discovered. The present paper is published only in deference to Dr. Croizat's fear that a misinterpretation of his position might result if the matter were allowed to rest with Dr. Fosberg's reply.