

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Short notes on *Rubus* L. (Rosaceae) – On the identity of *Rubus cosmophyllus* Foerster

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Key words

Rubus vestitus
Rubus cosmophyllus

Abstract – The identity of *Rubus cosmophyllus* Foerster could be established as a synonym of *R. vestitus* Weihe.

Samenvatting – Foerster (1878) beschreef een groot aantal bramensoorten. De meeste van deze soorten zijn niet te achterhalen, omdat er geen herbariumexemplaren van bekend zijn. Sommige beschrijvingen refereren echter naar collecties van anderen. Een daarvan is *Rubus cosmophyllus*. De protoloog is gebaseerd op een exemplaar in het herbarium van Sonder onder de naam *R. vestitus* Weihe, verzameld bij Burgsteinfurt. Zo'n exemplaar bevindt zich in het herbarium van de botanische tuin in Melbourne (MEL). Dit specimen wordt hier als type aangewezen. Het is inderdaad een exemplaar van *R. vestitus*, alleen met wat kleine bladeren, zoals Foerster meldt. Dat komt echter wel vaker voor bij deze soort. *Rubus cosmophyllus* is dus een later synonym van *R. vestitus*.

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Foerster (1878) published a great number of new species of *Rubus* L. Many of these are obscure because until now no specimens were found by which the identity could be established. It is only when Foerster refers to specimens of other collectors, such as Wirtgen or Kaltenbach, that the identity becomes clear. One of these collectors is Sonder, from whom Foerster obtained two specimens which he described as new species: *Rubus costifolius* Foerster (1878: 105) and *R. cosmophyllus* Foerster (1878: 113). The identity of the former has recently been settled as an older synonym of *R. longior* A. Beek (van de Beek 2014).

Foerster mentions that his *Rubus cosmophyllus* is based on a specimen in the collection of Sonder labeled as *R. vestitus* Weihe ex Bluff & Fingerh. (1825: 684). Specimens with this reference are nowadays present in the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) in Melbourne, Australia, as did the lectotype of *R. costifolius*.

There are three sheets with samples of *Rubus vestitus* in Sonder's collection in MEL. Two of these (MEL2384081 and MEL2384082) belong to the same collection and should there-

fore be considered as one specimen. Both are inflorescences. Because the leaves are more characteristic for *R. vestitus*, the other sample (MEL2384080), which shows three leaves with primocane parts, is chosen here as the lectotype. Actually, it is probable that all three belong to the same collection, but this is not certain. Hence only MEL2384080 has been selected.

***Rubus cosmophyllus* Foerster, Fl. Excurs. Aachen 113 (1878)**
— Fig. 1, 2 & 3

Lectotype (hic design.): MEL, herb. Sonder, "*Rubus vestitus* [Weihe]. Burgsteinfurt. An Wegen ausserhalb des Westerthors. Julij 1835." [MEL2384080].

Syntype: [MEL2384081/2].

According to Foerster, the main difference between *Rubus vestitus* and his *R. cosmophyllus* is that the leaves of the latter are smaller. That indeed corresponds with the specimen. This is,

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Fig. 1. The lectotype of *Rubus cosmophyllus* Foester (MEL [MEL2384080]). Photo: Catherine Gallagher.



Fig. 2. Syntype of *Rubus cosmophyllus* Foester (MEL [MEL2384081]). It belongs to the same collection as MEL2384082 (Fig. 3). Photo: Catherine Gallagher.



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MEL 2384082

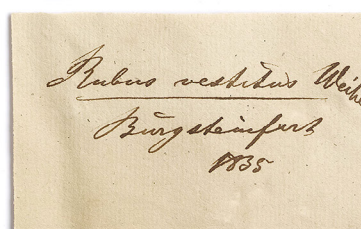


Fig. 3. Syntype of *Rubus cosmophyllus* Foester (MEL [MEL2384082]). It belongs to the same collection as MEL2384081 (Fig. 2). Photo: Catherine Gallagher.

however, not a sufficient distinction for retaining two separate species, even more so because similar plants of *R. vestitus* are often found. So *R. cosmophyllus* Foerster is a later synonym of *R. vestitus* Weihe.

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