

LEGITIMIZATION OF *SABAL YAPA* (ARECACEAE): CLASSICAL VERSUS COMMON LATIN

LEGITIMIZACIÓN DE *SABAL YAPA* (ARECACEAE): EL LATÍN CLÁSICO VERSUS EL LATÍN VULGAR

CELIO E. MOYA LÓPEZ, RODRIGO DUNO DE STEFANO, AND RAMONA OVIEDO PRIETO

Recently we published an update of *Sabal yapa* (Moya et al. 2021) (**Fig. 1**), and, among several revelations, determined that the correct spelling of the epithet should be *S. japa*. Unfortunately, this determination proved to be incorrect, and it will be addressed below and corrected. Our study also revealed that:

1. Charles Wright collected the type specimen (3971), on December 12, 1866, in La Güira, Luis Lazo, Minas de Matahambre municipality, Pinar del Río province, Cuba (**Fig. 2**);
2. When Beccari (1907) published *Sabal yapa* C. Wright ex Becc., it was a superfluous and illegitimate name;
3. We transcribed or corrected *Sabal mayarum* Bartlett to *Sabal mayana* Bartlett and lectotypified all heterotypic synonyms of *S. yapa*.

We also provided complete status of the types, uses, and the geographical and biogeographical distribution of *Sabal yapa*, including a distribution map (Moya et al. 2021).

The most important taxonomic electronic database like GBIF (2022), IPNI (2022), POWO (2022), The Plant List (2013), and Tropicos (2022) refer to this species as *Sabal yapa* C. Wright ex Becc. We reaffirm here that *Sabal japa* C. Wright ex Bartlett was effectively and validly published (see Turland et al. 2018: Art. 29-31 and Art. 32-45).

Parra (1799) was the first to use «*P. [palm] Jata*» as a vernacular name of the species, which is why Wright wrote the name «*japa*» for the *Sabal* species he had collected as *Wright 3971*. Sauvalle (1871) published the name but without a description, thus, it is a nomen nudum while Beccari (1907) published «*S. yapa*» but as a superfluous and, thus, illegitimate name.

Unfortunately, we erred in our interpretation of the Code and subsequent spelling of the epithet *Sabal japa* (Moya et al. 2021) because Art. 60.1, 60.4, and 60.6 (Turland et al. 2018) recommend



1. *Sabal yapa*, habit, at Las Pozas, San Juan Guacamayo, Bahía Honda, Artemisa, Cuba. © 2017 D. R. Hodel.



2. Map showing type locality of the *Wright 3970* collection of the lectotype of *Sabal yapa*. ©2023 Google.com and Hicuba.com.

that “when the original publication of a name adopted a use of the letters *u*, *v*, or *i*, *j* in any way incompatible with modern nomenclatural practices, those letters are to be transcribed in conformity with modern nomenclatural usage.” The Code only accepts classical Latin, which did not have “*j*,” and words from Greek; because «*Jata*» is a vernacular name derived from neither Latin nor Greek, its “*j*” must be changed to “*y*.” Here we propose the change of *japa* to *yapa*. Replacement name epithets are written in accordance with the accepted usage of Latin in excluded names (see Turland et al. 2018: Recommendation 60E.) Thus, the validly published name is:

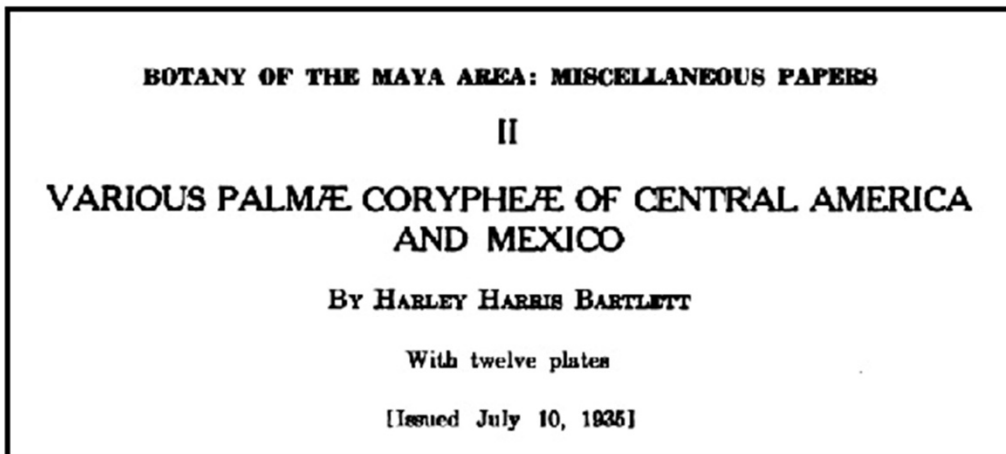
Sabal yapa C. Wright ex Bartlett, Publ. Carnegie Inst. Wash. 461(2): 36. 1935, ‘*japa*’. Type: CUBA. Pinar del Río province: Minas de Matahambre municipality, Luis Lazo, La Güira, 12 December 1866, *Wright 3971* (Fig. 3)

Excluded names:

“*Sabal japa*” C. Wright, in Sauvalle, Anales Acad. Ci. Med. Habana, 8: 562. 1871, nom. nud.

available so far only in fine fruiting specimens (*Bartlett 19284*, Uaxactun, Department of Peten, Guatemala) the writer intends to name, when flower-

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fruit is smaller, 7 to 9 mm. in diameter. It is associated with a good flower-
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Sabal yapa Wright. Arbor. Folia magna, segmentis ca. 120-150 cm. longis, 5 cm. latis, non filiferis, ca. 15-30 cm. infra apice bifidis, costa ad sinus basin terminanti; ligula 4-5 cm. longa, 1.5 cm. lata; rhachide in lamina ca. 60 cm. producta. Bracteolæ florales 1 vel 3, parvæ, 1.4 mm. latæ, 0.6 mm. longæ, textura firmæ. Flores maturi nondum aperti 5.5 mm. longi 3 mm. crassi. Calyx non costulatus, glaber, cupuliformis, 2 mm. diametro, vix 2.5 mm. altus, subtus retusus, basi connatus, sursum dimidia parte trilobus, sinibus acutis, apicibus obtusis. Petala 3.5 mm. longa, 3 mm. lata, ut videtur inter se distincta sed intus ad cupulam stamineam valde adnata, ergo cohærentia, obscure 5-7-venosa. Stamina 6, filamentis basi ad petala adnata et lateraliter connata annulum brevem formantia, parte libera 2.5 mm. longa, carnosa, anguste triangula, pallide colorata; antheræ 1.7 mm. longæ, paullulo infra medium dorso affixæ. Pistillum 4.5 mm. longum, anguste conicum, triloculare.—Descriptio ex specimine typico cl. C. Wright, no. 3971, Cuba, in U. S. Nat. Herb., no. 33398.

Of this species there is no material in the National Herbarium except the type.

“*Sabal japa*” C. Wright, in Sauvalle, Fl. Cub. (Sauvalle): 152. 1873, later isonym without nomenclatural status.

“*Sabal yapa*” C. Wright ex Becc., Webbia 2: 64. 1907, illeg. name.

“*Sabal japa*” C. Wright ex Bartlett, Publ. Carnegie Inst. Wash. 461: 36. 1935, incompatible with modern nomenclatural practices.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Donald R. Hodel for carefully reviewing the manuscript, providing photographs, and improving the English. We also thank the teams of the Google maps and *Hicuba.com* for allowing us to make the map, to HathiTrust Digital Library for allowing us to consult the protologue. We are grateful to anonymous reviewers for their suggestions. To all we give our sincere thanks.

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Publication Date: 9 January 2023.

PalmArbor: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/HodelPalmsTrees/PalmArbor/>

ISSN 2690-3245

Editor-In-Chief: Donald R. Hodel

Hodel Palms and Trees: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/HodelPalmsTrees/>