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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Nomenclatural problems with corrected orthography and possible solutions: the curious case of “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii*” Zahlbr. (*Teloschistaceae*)

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Abstract. We review the nomenclatural history of the name published as “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii* Zahlbr.”, based on a specimen collected in 1934 in Aotearoa / New Zealand by Ms. Lucy Beatrice Moore. Although validly published, the name was later unnecessarily replaced with the illegitimate name *C. mooreae* D.J. Galloway due to a misinterpretation of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* then in force. Based on Article 60 of the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (ICN, *Madrid Code*), we examine some aspects of the orthographic treatment of personal names used in epithets. In this specific case, we consider various options for expansion of the personal names originally published as initials in epithets. We conclude that at least three corrected versions are equally possible under the current ICN, in particular, *Caloplaca lucybeatricemooreae* (but not ‘*lucy-beatrice-mooreae*’), *C. lucyae-beatriceae-mooreae*, and/or even *C. luciae-beatricis-mooreae*. However, due to the number of possible corrected versions, the authors favour resolution of the uncertainty with a proposal to conserve the illegitimate replacement name *C. mooreae*, which is in current use, against “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii* Zahlbr.” and all its corrected variants. This will be prepared in due course.

Keywords: botanical nomenclature, *Caloplaca*, lichenized fungi, taxonomic orthography

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Fig. 1. Image of “*Caloplaca* L. B. Moorii” on base of *Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*, Mataia, Kaipara Harbour, Te Ika a Maui / North Island, Aotearoa / New Zealand (image: D.J. Blanchon)

Introduction

The name “*Caloplaca* L. B. Moorii” Zahlbr. was published by Karl Martin Redinger (1907–1940), who edited *post mortem* the manuscript prepared by Alexander Zahlbruckner (31 May 1860 — 8 May 1938), “eigene Zutaten zu unterlassen” (i.e. refraining from making his own additions) (Zahlbruckner, 1941).

The name was clearly and explicitly ascribed to Zahlbruckner in the protologue, and this authorship (as well as the authorship of the whole article) should be followed: see Art. 46.2 of the *International Code of Nomenclature of algae, fungi, and plants* (ICN), the current *Madrid Code* (Turland et al., 2025; here consulted according to the lists of proposed and accepted amendments and other

available sources: see Turland, Wiersema, 2024; Turland et al., 2024; Turland, 2025). This name was applied to a lichen species (Fig. 1.) collected in 1934 by Miss Lucy Beatrice Moore (14 July 1906 — 9 June 1987; for a short biography of this prominent New Zealand woman botanist, see Morton, 2000–onward). It was collected from a species of mangrove reported then as *Avicennia resinifera* G. Forst., now accepted as *A. marina* (Forssk.) Vierh. subsp. *australasica* (Walp.) J. Everett (Acanthaceae s. l. subfam. *Avicennioideae* Miers, or *Avicenniaceae* Miq. s. str.), growing on the side of the Mahurangi River (approx. — 36.398700°S, 174.670211°E), probably near Warkworth, Te Ika a Maui / North Island of Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Galloway (1983) regarded the name “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii*” as being illegitimate due to the (then) *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* [either the *Leningrad Code* (Stafleu et al., 1978), or the *Sydney Code* (Voss et al., 1983), it is not clear which he referred to], supposedly not allowing specific epithets to be made up of three words connected with hyphens. He proposed a new name, *C. mooreae*, explaining his nomenclatural decision as follows: “Since the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature does not allow 3 words to comprise a specific epithet (L. B. in Zahlbruckner’s epithet *L. B. Moorii* standing for Lucy Beatrice) the new name *C. mooreae* based on the same type must be used” (Galloway, 1983: 192).

However, both the *Leningrad Code* and the *Sydney Code* contain no rules banning the names containing three or more parts, with two or even more hyphens. Just *vice versa*, it is stated that “If an epithet consists of **two or more words** [emphasis added — Authors], these are to be united or hyphenated” (Art. 23.1 of both the *Leningrad Code* and the *Sydney Code*), without specifying any number of words or hyphens. Recommendation 23B(d) (present in the mentioned *Codes*) states that in forming specific epithets the authors should “avoid those formed of two or more hyphenated words”. However, it is a Recommendation, not a Rule of the *Code*.

Thus, Galloway created *de facto* the replacement name *Caloplaca mooreae* D.J. Galloway based on the same type. He also corrected the ending reflecting the grammatical gender of the epithet commemorating a female person. This nomenclatural decision has been followed in subsequent publications (Galloway, 1985 [there as *Caloplaca mooreae* with the authorship cited incorrectly as “(Zahlbr.)

D.J. Galloway”]; Malcolm, Galloway, 1997; Galloway, 2007; de Lange et al., 2012, 2018), and thus this illegitimate replacement name is currently in use.

When the first author was routinely checking *Mycobank* for updates on the lichens of Aotearoa / New Zealand, he noted that the name *Caloplaca mooreae* D.J. Galloway had been updated and was now cited as a synonym of the name “*Caloplaca lucy-beatrice-mooreae* Zahlbr.”, with an expansion of the initials “L. B.” in Zahlbruckner (1941) to “Lucy” and “Beatrice”, the addition of hyphens, and the correction of the ending of the original spelling “*Moorii*” to “*mooreae*” to reflect the gender of the person the species was named after.

This raised five questions: (1) Was the original name validly published? (2) Should abbreviated personal names (i.e. initials) in epithets be expanded for the name or epithet to be grammatically and nomenclaturally correct? (3) If yes, which rules and/or recommendations should be followed? (4) Should one or more than one hyphen(s) be used in a species epithet in such cases? (5) If so, what form would the correct (or corrected) epithet take?

Nomenclature

The first matter requiring clarification is whether Zahlbruckner’s “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii*” was validly published. According to Art. 60 of the *ICN* (*Madrid Code*, Turland et al. 2025; see above), specifically “The original spelling of a name or epithet is to be retained, except for the correction of typographical or orthographical errors and the standardizations imposed by [in this case] Art. 60.14”. The protologue contained a detailed description in Latin and the citation of the type gathering, and even specifically the holotype specimen (through the mention of Zahlbruckner’s unique number, see below).

Therefore, Zahlbruckner’s “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii*” was validly published rendering Galloway’s (1983) published name “*Caloplaca mooreae*” (in fact, a replacement name, not a correction of the original epithet) nomenclaturally superfluous and thus illegitimate. Galloway (1983) was correct though over the orthography of the family name of Lucy Beatrice Moore forming the epithet. As the person honoured is female, the ending of the epithet (or part of the epithet) “*moorii*” is to be corrected to “*mooreae*” following Art. 60.8(a) of the *ICN*.

First of all, let us consider an option of deleting the full stops (periods) and spaces, to obtain



Fig. 2. Image of the holotype held in Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (W0207548)

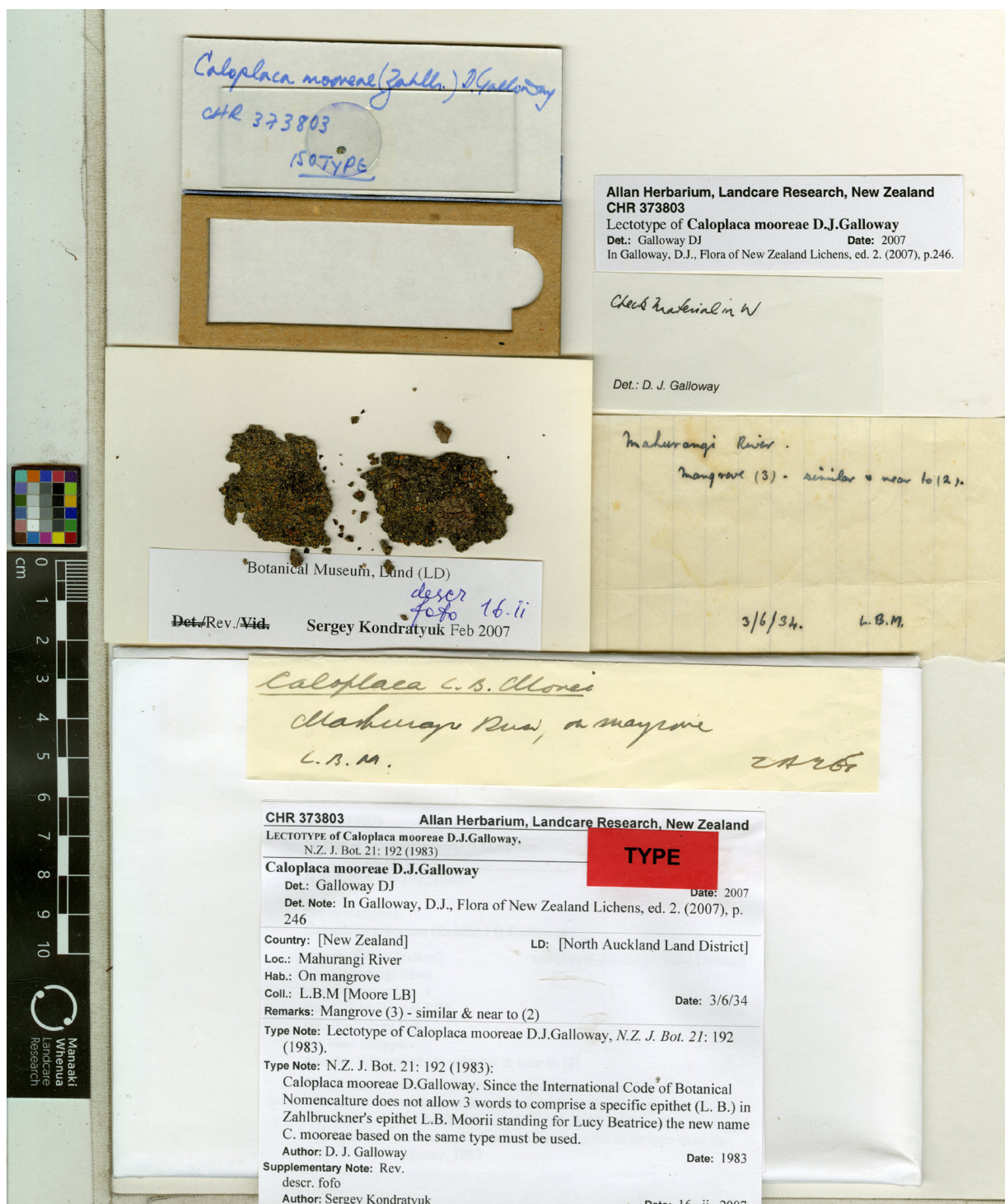


Fig. 3. Image of the isotype held by the Allan Herbarium (CHR373803)

“*lbmooreae*”, an epithet already mentioned in *Mycobank* #365221. At first glance, it looks like Art. 60.13 of the *ICN* allows that option. But a careful interpretation of that Article excludes it: “<...> The use of a full stop (period) in an epithet that is derived from a **personal or geographical name that contains this full stop** [emphasis added — Authors] is treated as an error to be corrected by expansion or, when nomenclatural tradition does not support expansion (Art. 60.14), deletion of the full stop”. In the Example provided directly under Art. 60.13 [Ex. 47: “In *Nesoluma* ‘*St.-Johnianum*’ Lam & Meeuse (in *Occas. Pap. Bernice Pauahi Bishop Mus.* 14: 153. 1938), derived from St. John, the family name of one of the collectors, the epithet is to be spelled *st-johnianum*”] the intended epithet is derived from a compound family name St. John **that already contains this full stop**. We should inevitably conclude that in this sentence of Art. 60.13 the words “that contains this full stop” are linked to the noun “name” in the directly preceding phrase “a personal or geographical name”, not to the noun “epithet”. It means that the deletion of spaces and full stops (periods) cannot be applied in this case, and thus the “corrected” epithet “*lbmooreae*” is in fact incorrect. In other words, “L. B. Moore” is not “a personal or geographical name [one name — Authors] that contains this full stop” but the initials (the abbreviated first and middle names) plus the non-abbreviated last name. Because of that the correction procedure suggested in Art. 60.13 is not applicable in our case.

This leaves the key consideration, how should Zahlbruckner’s “*L. B. Moorii*” corrected to “*L. B. Mooreae*” be treated? According to the amended Art. 60.14, the “L. B.” part is to be expanded if nomenclatural tradition supports expansion. Here we have to consider what traditions, if any, have lichenologists, notably those from Aotearoa / New Zealand, favoured with abbreviated epithets like “*L. B. Mooreae*”. In reality, until this matter was accidentally discovered by the senior author, no one working on Aotearoa / New Zealand lichens had been aware of the problem, all accepting and following “*Caloplaca mooreae*” as published by Galloway (1983) and adopted in his *Lichen Flora* treatments (Galloway, 1985, 2007); see for example de Lange et al. (2012) and de Lange et al. (2018). Also, from a perusal of the *Flora of New Zealand Lichens* (Galloway, 1985, 2007) it seems that Zahlbruckner’s use of

initials in his epithet was a singular case, perhaps a provisional name not intended for publication.

Those responsible for resurrecting Zahlbruckner’s name “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii*” on *Mycobank* used “*Caloplaca lucy-beatrice-mooreae*” without explanation. Presumably *Mycobank* followed Article 60.14 of the *ICN* (*Madrid Code*) which states that “abbreviated names and epithets are to be expanded in conformity with nomenclatural tradition (see also Art. 23 *Ex. 23 and Rec. 60C.4(d))”. Article 60, Example 49 offers a guide; citing “*Allium* ‘*a.-bolosii*’ P. Palau (in *Anales Inst. Bot. Cavanilles* 11: 485. 1953). The species epithet honours Antonio de Bolòs y Vayreda, so the epithet should be expressed in full as “*antonii-bolosii*”.

This raises the question: is it actually necessary in this case to use hyphens?

The *Madrid Code* offers guidance on the use of hyphens in species epithets:

“23.1. The name of a species is a binary combination consisting of the name of the genus followed by a single specific epithet in the form of an adjective, a noun in the genitive, or a word in apposition (see also Art. 23.6). If an epithet consisted originally of two or more words, these are to be united or hyphenated. An epithet not so joined when originally published is not to be rejected but, when used, is to be united or hyphenated, as specified in Art. 60.11”.

However, the “corrected” epithet is currently (18 June 2025) accepted by *Mycobank* as “*lucy-beatrice-mooreae*”, with the first and middle (given) names of Lucy Beatrice Moore expanded unchanged, in the Latin nominative case, while the last name (surname) is given in the Latin genitive case. In our opinion, this expansion (using hyphens) requires further discussion. Let us consider two cases cited in Art. 60 Ex. 40 and Ex. 41:

“Ex. 40. Hyphen to be deleted: <...> *Eunotia rolandschmidtii* Metzeltin & Lange-Bert. (*Iconogr. Diatomol.* 18: 117. 2007, “*roland-schmidtii*”), in which the given name and surname do not stand independently because the former is not separately latinized; <...>”

“Ex. 41. Hyphen to be maintained: <...> *Enteromorpha roberti-lamii* H. Parriaud (in *Botaniste* 44: 247. 1961), in which the given name and surname stand independently because they are separately latinized; <...>”

This leaves us with three options. (1) We could use the form “*lucy-beatrice-mooreae*”, in which the given names and the surname (in the Latin genitive case) do not stand independently because the given names are not separately latinized, then, following Art. 60 Ex. 40, the hyphens are to be deleted, resulting in a rather awkward variant “*lucybeatricemooreae*”. (2) The second option is to conclude that the initials originally used in the protologue should be expanded to match the grammatical gender and (genitive) case of the already corrected part of the epithet, “-*mooreae*”, and these three parts of the epithet should be connected with two hyphens, resulting in the even more awkward (but correct according to Latin grammar) “*lucyae-beatriceae-mooreae*” (Art. 60 Ex. 41 and Ex. 49 on the ICN). (3) The third option would be based on full latinization of the names Lucy and Beatrice, which in Latin were *Lucia* (genitive: *Luciae*) and *Beatrix* (genitive: *Beatricis*), which will result in “*luciae-beatricis-mooreae*”.

The *Code* also does have two recommendations (Rec. 23A.3(b, d)) regarding the use of long names or more than one hyphen:

“23A.3. In forming specific epithets, authors should comply also with the following: <...>

(b) Avoid epithets that are very long or difficult to pronounce in Latin. <...>

(d) Avoid those formed of two or more hyphenated words.”

However, being Recommendations and not the Rules, they are not binding.

Now we turn to see if there is a nomenclatural tradition to guide us. We were unable to find examples of Australasian lichenized fungi with specific epithets composed from three names, but there are some epithets composed from two, such as *Caloplaca johnwhinrayi* S.Y. Kondr. & Kärnefelt named for John Whinray and *Caloplaca jackelixii* S.Y. Kondr., Kärnefelt & A. Thell named for Jack Elix (Kondratyuk et al., 2009) [also currently accepted either as *Sirenophila jackelixii* (S.Y. Kondr., Kärnefelt & A. Thell) Søchting, Arup & Frödén (Arup et al., 2013) or *Elixjohnia jackelixii* (S.Y. Kondr., Kärnefelt & A. Thell) S.Y. Kondr. & Hur (Kondratyuk et al., 2017)], that combine the first names and surnames of the persons they were named after. Both of these epithets avoid hyphens, following Art. 60 Ex. 40. However, these names should not be treated as some Australasian

nomenclatural tradition; they rather manifest the trend of coining long combined names and epithets, noticeable in publications of the first author of these names. For example, several similarly formed epithets have been coined for lichens occurring in Australia (“*cliffwetmorei*” for Cliff Wetmore and “*ferdinandmuelleri*” for Ferdinand Mueller) and Greenland (“*erichansenii*” for Eric Hansen) in the same article (Kondratyuk et al., 2009).

It should be noted that there is also *Ocellularia jacinda-arderniae* A.J. Marshall, Blanchon, Lücking & de Lange (Marshall et al., 2019), where a hyphen was used because the alternative “*jacindaarderniae*” had the same vowel “aa” repeated (see Art. 60.11: “<...> A hyphen is permitted only when the epithet is formed of words that usually stand independently, or when the letters before and after the hyphen are the same”; note also Ex. 41: Turland et al., 2025).

Despite these examples used by Australasian lichenologists, we conclude that there is no single Australasian or any other nomenclatural tradition to provide the only one acceptable guideline in this case.

The *Madrid Code* gives no direct guidance on which option to select. The reference to some “nomenclatural tradition” does not work here because we can find no unequivocal existing examples for or against any of these three options:

“*lucybeatricemooreae*”,

“*lucyae-beatriceae-mooreae*”,

“*luciae-beatricis-mooreae*”,

or even supporting the fourth option of deleting the full stops / periods and spaces (which we, however, exclude; see above), resulting in an incorrect version “*lbmooreae*”.

Of course, it is impossible to include in the ICN all potentially applicable orthographic rules and recommendations and to predict all cases of orthographic problems that may emerge, so such problems are still inevitable in taxonomic literature. For example, at least 1197 scientific names of plants mentioned in the *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae* (*Flora of the People's Republic of China*, the original edition in Chinese) were recently corrected because of their wrong spelling in that multi-volume *Flora*, including 111 names having epithets with gender forms not matching the genders of generic names, and 338 names with incorrect hyphenation (Liu et al., 2013).

Also, for controversial cases like the one discussed in the present article, formal proposals to conserve a name with the conserved orthography (spelling) may be useful for proper standardization of the nomenclature of orthographically problematic names. It could be even possible to propose for conservation the name *Caloplaca mooreae* (nom. illeg.), coined by Galloway (1983) and rather widely used as the accepted name in several publications and databases until now (Galloway, 1985, 2007; Malcolm, Galloway, 1997; de Lange et al., 2012, 2018; Blanchon, 2013; Biota of New Zealand: <https://biotanz.landcareresearch.co.nz/scientific-names/d90b35cb-2aa3-4a9b-83d1-48fead95ad8c>), against all names that emerged or may emerge from various attempts to correct the name published as “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii*”. If conserved, the name *C. mooreae* will be considered legitimate, even though initially it was published as an illegitimate replacement name (Art. 14.1 of the ICN).

The current nomenclatural options (and three corrected spellings possible under the *Madrid Code*) can be summarized as follows below.

The **original** spelling:

Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii Zahlbr., Denkschr. Akad. Wiss. Wien math-naturwiss. Kl. 104: 367. 1941.

Corrected spelling 1 (without latinization):

Caloplaca lucybeatricemooreae Zahlbr. (published as “L. B. *Moorii*”).

Corrected spelling 2 (partial latinization, only endings latinized):

Caloplaca lucyae-beatriceae-mooreae Zahlbr. (published as “L. B. *Moorii*”).

Corrected spelling 3 (full latinization, based on “Lucia Beatrix”, genitive “Luciae Beatricis”):

Caloplaca luciae-beatricis-mooreae Zahlbr. (published as “L. B. *Moorii*”).

Other “**corrected**” spelling variants:

≡ ‘*Caloplaca lbmoorii*’ Zahlbr. Mycobank: 365221

≡ ‘*Caloplaca lucy-beatrice-mooreae*’ Zahlbr. Mycobank: 107781

Replacement name:

≡ *Caloplaca mooreae* D.J. Galloway, N. Z. J. Bot. 21: 192 (1983), nom. superfl. illeg.; also occasionally incorrectly cited as a nomenclatural combination “*Caloplaca mooreae* (Zahlbr.) D.J. Galloway” in Fl. N.Z. Lichens.: 68. 1985. Mycobank: 108644

Holotype: New Zealand. North Auckland, Mahurangi River on *Avicennia resinifera*. L.B. Moore ZA 628, June 1934, W0207548! **Isotypes:** CHR373803!, BM.

Notes on typification

Galloway (1983: 192) initially correctly listed the specimen in W as the holotype (Fig. 2.) and CHR373803 as an isotype, which appears in a label on the specimen (Fig. 3.). Confusingly, he later recognised CHR373803 being the lectotype (Galloway, 1985, 2007), and there is an additional printed label attached to the specimen. He did include a note to “check material in W” on the CHR specimen. The designation of a lectotype by Galloway in 1985 (also confirmed in 2007) has no standing because the original protologue clearly cites a single specimen (Z.A. 628), presumably marked by Zahlbruckner on the label of the specimen in Vienna (W020754). The notes on CHR373803 do not include Zahlbruckner’s specimen number from his protologue of the species, but it is likely that it is a retained duplicate of the specimen that was sent to him in Vienna. We here confirm the status of W0207548 as the holotype because of its full correspondence to the protologue and the unique identifier ZA 628.

Concluding remarks

While this case is an unusual one, we conclude that neither earlier *Codes* nor the current *Madrid Code* (Turland et al., 2025) contain strict rules or even explicit recommendations for dealing with the cases like the one considered here. Clearer instructions or recommendations on expanding the initials published as parts of epithets could be provided in the *Code*. For avoiding any misunderstandings and proliferation of orthographic variants, some proposal(s) to amend the next *Code* could be considered to deal with that remaining uncertainty. If deemed useful, such a proposal could be provided for the judgement by the international community of taxonomists at the next XXI International Botanical Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.

A proposal to conserve the illegitimate replacement name in current use, *C. mooreae*, against the original replaced name “*Caloplaca* L. B. *Moorii*” and all its corrected variants is desirable, and will be prepared.

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ETHICS DECLARATION

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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**Номенклатурні проблеми з виправленням орфографії та можливі рішення:
цікавий випадок із назвою “*Caloplaca* L. B. Moorii” Zahlbr. (*Teloschistaceae*)**

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Реферат. Розглянуто номенклатурну історію назви, опублікованої як “*Caloplaca* L. B. Moorii Zahlbr.”, на основі зразка, який збрала Люсі Беатрис Мур (Lucy Beatrice Moore) у 1934 р. у Новій Зеландії. Хоча ця назва була валідно опублікована, згодом вона була без потреби замінена незаконною назвою *C. mooreae* D.J. Galloway через неправильне тлумачення тодішнього Міжнародного кодексу ботанічної номенклатури. На підставі Статті 60 Міжнародного кодексу номенклатури водоростей, грибів і рослин (Мадридського Кодексу) проаналізовано деякі аспекти орфографії власних імен у складі епітетів. У цьому конкретному випадку ми розглядаємо різні варіанти повного написання імен, опублікованих в оригінальному епітеті як ініціали. Ми робимо висновок, що відповідно до чинного Кодексу принаймні три варіанти виправлення епітета є однаково можливими, а саме *Caloplaca lacybeatricemooreae* (але не ‘*lacy-beatrice-mooreae*’), *C. lacyae-beatriceae-mooreae* та/або навіть *C. luciae-beatricis-mooreae*. Проте з усіх можливих варіантів автори схилиються до вирішення цієї проблеми шляхом подання пропозиції про консервацію незаконної, але вживаної наразі, назви *C. mooreae*. Така пропозиція з часом буде підготовлена.

Ключові слова: ботанічна номенклатура, ліхенізовані гриби, таксономічна орфографія, *Caloplaca*