

Topic: Binomial System of Nomenclature

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Binomial Nomenclature:

Linnaeus for the first time proposed that every living being has binomial name, i.e., a name with two epithets. One is generic and the other is specific epithet. If an organism has a variety also, then the name becomes trinomial.

Linnaeus proposed some rules for generic names of plants in *Fundamental Botanica* (1736) and *Critica Botanica* (1737). A.P.de Candolle for the first time proposed rules for nomenclature of plants which are passed by International Botanical Congress at Paris (1867).

For the first time it was a Swedish Naturalist Carolus Linnaeus who started naming plants in 1753 as Binomial names. It was published in his book “*Species plantarum*”.

The generic name is always a noun showing colour, name or adjective, e.g.,

Sarracenia named after a scientist Michel Sarracin. Species is always an adjective, e.g., for white flower, it is alba., for edible one it is sativa, black colour-nigrum etc.

These names are not used always. Species may be a Pronoun, e.g., americana, indica, benghalensis, etc. It may be shape of a leaf (character of plant), e.g., sagittifolia, name of other scientist to whom the plant is dedicated, e.g., Sahnii etc.

Before the middle of 18th century, plant names were generally polynomial consisting of several words in a series. Linnaeus proposed the elementary rules in Philosophia Botanica in 1751.

In 1813 A.P.de Candolle proposed details of the rules regarding plant nomenclature in Theorie elementaire de la botanique. Alphonse de Candolle son

of A.P.de Candolle after a long time convened an assembly of botanists of the world to present a new set of rules. Candolle convened the first International Botanical Congress at Paris in 1867.

Linneaus to Tourneforte to A.P.de Candolle made Laws of Botanical Nomenclature. In 1867 it was put before Paris Botanical Congress with principles of priority as Basic code with no exception.