PLANT TAXONOMY, GEOGRAPHY AND FLORISTICS
СИСТЕМАТИКА, ФЛОРИСТИКА, ГЕОГРАФІЯ РОСЛИН

https://doi.org/10.15407/ukrbotj83.03.172
RESEARCH ARTICLE

On the Linnaean name *Pharnaceum depressum* (*Caryophyllales*), its identity, current circumscription, and some associated names

Duilio IAMONICO
Department of Environmental Biology, University of Rome Sapienza,
5 Piazzale Aldo Moro, Rome 00185, Italy
*Address for correspondence: *duilio.iamonico@uniroma1.it*

Abstract. This article deals with the taxonomic identity and nomenclature of the Linnaean name *Pharnaceum depressum* published in the 2nd volume of *Mantissa Plantarum*, variously placed in *Caryophyllaceae* and assigned to either *Polycarpon* or *Polycarpaea*, depending on taxonomic interpretation. Turrill's indication of the "holotype" of *Pharnaceum depressum* is here corrected to lectotype according to Art. 9.10 of *ICN*. The names linked to *Ph. depressum* (Forsskål's *Alsine prostrata*, Delile's *Polycarpaea memphitica*, and Kunth & Bouché's *Polycarpaea mozambica*) are typified on specimens preserved at, respectively, C (lecto-), MPU (lecto-), and BR (neo-), and synonymised with *Ph. depressum*. Kindberg's "*Lepigonum prostratum*", reported in several online databases, is invalid according to the Art. 36.1 of the *ICN*. Morphological studies of types and other specimens confirm the placement in *Polycarpon*, based on oblong-spatulate leaves and sepals scarious only at margins. The examined material shows similarities with the Mediterranean taxon *P. tetraphyllum* subsp. *tetraphyllum* and the Peruvian endemic *P. tetraphyllum* subsp. *peruvianum*, but differs in several characters (shape of stipules, arrangement of flowers, structure of the sepals, length of the petals, and length of the fruit). Thus, the taxon originally described by Linnaeus as *Pharnaceum depressum*, by Forsskål as *Alsine prostrata*, by Delile as *Polycarpaea memphitica*, and by Kunth & Bouché as *Polycarpaea mozambica*, is here proposed to be recognized as a subspecies of *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*. Since the earlier available epithet (that of Linnaean *Ph. depressum*) cannot be used due to the existing legitimate *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* subsp. *depressum* Iamonico (a different taxon endemic to California and Mexico), the proposed new combination is based on Forsskål's name *Alsine prostrata*.

Keywords: *Alsine prostrata*, lectotype, Linnaeus, neotype, nomenclatural change, *Polycarpaea memphitica*, *Polycarpaea mozambica*, *Polycarpon*, synonym, typification

Introduction

Linnaeus (1753: 272) described the genus *Pharnaceum* L. in volume 1 of the 1st edition of *Species Plantarum*, listing two species, *Ph. cerviana* L. and *Ph. incanum* L., the latter being the generitype designated by Hitchcock (in Hitchcock, Green, 1929: 143). Later, the following four species were proposed in the genus by Linnaeus (1759: 966, 1760: 9, 1771: 221, 562): *Ph. cordifolium* L., *Ph. depressum*

ARTICLE HISTORY. Submitted 22 March 2026. Revised 14 June 2026. Published 24 June 2026
CITATION. Iamonico D. 2026. On the Linnaean name *Pharnaceum depressum* (*Caryophyllales*), its identity, current circumscription, and some associated names. *Ukrainian Botanical Journal*, 83(3): 172–179. https://doi.org/10.15407/ukrbotj83.03.172

L., *Ph. distichum* L., and *Ph. mollugo* L. Five of these Linnaean species are currently recognized as belonging to the genus *Pharnaceum* (*Molluginaceae*) which is naturally distributed in the southern regions of Africa; on the other hand, *Ph. depressum* is considered to belong to the family *Caryophyllaceae* and synonymized with *Polycarpon prostratum* (Forssk.) Asch. & Schweinf. (see, e.g., GBIF, 2026–onward; WFO, 2026–onward) or *Polycarpaea prostrata* (Forssk.) Decne. (see POWO, 2026–onward).

Both *Polycarpaea* Lam. and *Polycarpon* L. belong to the family *Caryophyllaceae* Juss., as consistently supported by molecular phylogenetic studies (Smissen et al., 2002; Harbaugh et al., 2010; Greenberg, Donoghue, 2018). Within *Caryophyllaceae*, both genera are recognized in the tribe *Polycarpaeae* DC., which, according to WFO (2026–onward), comprises 25 genera. According to phylogenetic analysis of Candolle's tribe, Zanotti et al. (2022) confirmed that *Polycarpaea* and *Polycarpon* are morphologically related taxa (see also Lu et al., 2001; Rabeler, Hartman, 2005). Different recognitions of the Linnaeus' *Ph. depressum* occur, not only at the genus rank [*Polycarpaea versus Polycarpon* plus further not currently recognized genera, i.e. *Arvesia* Cambess. (now in *Polycarpon*), *Lepigonum* Wahlenb. (now in *Spergula* Dill. ex L.), *Mollia* Willd. (now in *Polycarpaea*)] but also at the species level [e.g., "*Lepigonum prostratum*" Kindb., *Polycarpaea memphitica* Delile].

As part of the ongoing studies on the genus *Polycarpon* (e.g., Iamonico 2015a, 2015b, 2017a, 2017b; Iamonico, Domina, 2015; Iamonico, Zanotti, 2022; Iamonico, Montesinos-Tubée, 2025a, 2025b), which are also part of the *Caryophyllales* Network project (coordinator: M. Dillenberger, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany), I here present a note concerning the Linnaean *Pharnaceum depressum* and associated names, with the aim of clarifying their taxonomic identity and proper application.

Materials and Methods

This research is based on the analysis of relevant literature (including protologues) cited below and on examination of specimens and images of specimens preserved at B, BR, C, K, LINN, and MPU (acronyms according to *Index Herbariorum*: Thiers, 2026–onward). Nomenclature articles cited throughout the text follow the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (hereafter the *ICN*), in its current *Madrid Code* edition (Turland et al., 2025).

Results and Discussion

Pharnaceum depressum

Linnaeus (1771: 562) validly published the name *Pharnaceum depressum* by providing a short diagnosis ("PHARNACEUM pedunculis unifloris lateralibus, foliis lanceolatis pubescentibus") and a detailed description; the provenance was reported as "Habitat in India orientali".

Turrill (1956: 5) reported "Type: E. India (LINN, holo.!)" under *Pharnaceum depressum*. However, Linnaeus (1771: 562) did not cite any holotype (citations of uniquely identifiable specimens corresponding to the modern holotype concept are rare in Linnaeus' works; see Jarvis, 2007), nor any supposed syntypes. Consequently, the holotype indication by Turrill is an error to be corrected and his type statement should be accepted as the effective lectotype designation according to Art. 9.10 of *ICN*.

Alsine prostrata

Forsskål (1775: 207) provided a short diagnosis for *Alsine prostrata* ("foliis oblongis; caule prostrato, dichotomo; flore pentandro, trigyno") and the provenance ("Káhirae", currently Cairo, Egypt).

According to HUH-Index of Botanists (2013), Forsskål's herbarium and types are mainly preserved at C, where I located four specimens [barcodes C10001617 (collection number: 551), C10001618 (collection number: 924), C10001619 (collection number: 559), and C10001620 (collection number: 925)], all collected by Pehr Forsskål at Cairo. These specimens, all matching the original diagnosis, are part of the original material used by Forsskål (1775: 207) for describing *Alsine prostrata*. C10001619 is the best preserved specimen, and it includes more leaves and flowers features which have a high taxonomic value in identification of taxa of *Polycarpon* and *Polycarpaea* (see e.g., Lu et al., 2001; Rabeler, Hartman, 2005). Therefore, it is here designated as the lectotype of the name *Alsine prostrata* (see below).

Polycarpaea memphitica

Delile (1813: 211) validly published the name *Polycarpaea memphitica* by providing a short diagnosis and a detailed description; the provenance was reported as "Cette plante est commune dans le terrain sablonneux des îles du Nil près du Kaire, particulièrement à l'île Gezyret el-Dahab,

au-dessus de Roudah" (English translation: "This plant is common in the sandy soil of the Nile islands near Cairo, particularly on Gezyret el-Dahab [now Gazirat edh-Dhahab or Dahab Island], above Rudah [now Rawdah or Roda Island]"); an illustration was also provided ("Planche 24, Fig. 2"; image available at https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/15953772) and it is also part of the original material for the name.

There are three specimens of *Polycarpaea memphitica* at MPU (where Delile's collections and types are mainly preserved; see HUH-Index of Botanists, 2013) collected by Alire Raffeneau Delile in Egypt. MPU021887 (image available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.mpu021887) was collected in 1822, after the protologue (1813); consequently, it is not original material. There is no original label from Delile on MPU006958 (image available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.mpu006958) which, therefore, cannot be ascribed with certainty to original material either. Finally, MPU006957 (image available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.mpu006957) includes Delile's annotation "Bord du Nil près du Caire", a locality matching the protologue. I consider MPU006957 as part of the original material for *Polycarpaea memphitica* and designate it as the lectotype (see below).

Polycarpaea mozambica

Kunth and Bouché (in Kunth, 1848: 15) validly published the name *Polycarpaea mozambica* to distinguish at the species rank supposedly glabrous forms of *P. memphitica* ("In Polycarpaea memphitica Del. … An hajus forma glabra?"); a diagnosis and a description, as well as the provenance ("Monzanbica") were reported; the sentence "Dr. Peter semina misit" (= Dr. Peter sent seeds) was also given, highlighting that the plant was cultivated at the Berlin Garden from seeds.

I did not locate any specimen at B, where most *Caryophyllaceae* material was destroyed during World War II, as highlighted by several authors (see, e.g., Hiepko, 1987; Eggli, Leuenberger, 2008; Iamonico et al., 2017; Montesinos-Tubée, Iamonico, 2023). Thus, according to Art. 9.8 of the *ICN*, a neotypification would be required. Given the provenance of the seeds of *Polycarpaea mozambica*, I prefer to select a Mozambican collection as a neotype and designate the specimen BR0000027333532V as such (see below).

Polycarpon pusillum

The name *Polycarpon pusillum* was listed by the major online databases of plant names (IPNI, 2026–onward; POWO, 2026–onward) as valid from the nomenclatural standpoint; also the *World Flora Online* (WFO, 2026–onward) considers it as validly published, but taxonomically "unplaced". This binomial first appears in the 1st volume of *Prodromus Florae Peninsulae Indiae Orientalis* by Wight and Arnott (1834: 358) where it was placed as a synonym of *Hopalosia loeflingiae* Wall. ex Wight & Arn. Consequently, *Polycarpon pusillum* is invalid according to Art. 36.1b of the *ICN*. Note that Wight and Arnott (1834: 358) cited, after the invalid binomial, "Roxb., E. I. C. [East Indian Company] mus. tab. 535", so referring to an illustration by Roxburgh. This illustration is part of the unpublished *Icones Roxburgianae* (image available at https://www.plantillustrations.org/illustration.php?SID=u14j7sleecq527frs4g-033v938&id_illustration=460587), which have never been published (see, e.g., Leong-Škorničková et al., 2010; Turner, 2022). The sheet is annotated with three binomials (bottom-center), i.e. "*Loeflingia indica Retz.* | *Polycarpon prostratum (Forssk.) Asch. & Schweinf.* | *Alsine prostrata Forssk.*". Despite Wight & Arnott's *Polycarpon pusillum* is invalid, it clearly refers to the taxon which Forsskål (1775: 207) originally described as *Alsine prostrata*.

Taxonomic notes

The genus *Polycarpon*, as traditionally circumscribed, would include about 16 species distributed in tropical and temperate regions of the world (Lu et al., 2001; Rabeler, Hartman 2005). Kool et al. (2007) demonstrated the polyphyly of this genus in its traditional circumscription using DNA sequence data from the chloroplast rps16 intron and nuclear RPB2 regions, and highlighting three different clades with high support values, i.e. (1) the *P. coquimbense* / *suffruticosum* aggregate (from South America), (2) the *P. tetraphyllum* aggregate (main diversity in the Mediterranean region), and (3) *P. prostratum* (Forssk.) Asch. & Schweinf. (tropical, widespread). The first clade must be excluded from *Polycarpon* since its members lack the synapomorphy for this genus, i.e. the capsule dehiscence by valves that elastically roll inwards. Iamonico (2015c) transferred *P. coquimbense* Gereau & Martic. and *P. suffruticosum* Griseb., together with *P. anomalum* Hassl., to the new genus *Augustea* Iamonico, endemic to South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Paraguay).

Two years later, Iamonico and Montesinos-Tubée (2017) transferred *P. moreiranum* Muñoz-Schick to *Augustea*. The second clade sensu Kool et al. (2007), the *P. tetraphyllum* aggregate, represents a polyploid complex that can be treated as a single species, *P. tetraphyllum* (L.) L. (≡ *Mollugo tetraphylla* L., 1753) (see, e.g., Kool et al., 2007; Hernández-Ledesma et al., 2015). Accordingly, Iamonico (2013, 2015a, 2015b, 2015d, 2017a), Iamonico and Domina (2015), Iamonico and Zanotti (2022), and Iamonico and Montesinos-Tubée (2025a) proposed recognizing the various taxa at subspecies rank. Finally, *P. prostratum* (Forssk.) Asch. & Schweinf. is recognized by various authors or databases as a member of either *Polycarpon* or *Polycarpaea* [as *P. prostrata* (Forssk.) Decne.] (see, e.g., Lu et al., 2001; Rabeler, Hartman, 2005; POWO, 2026–onward; WFO, 2026–onward). In any case, the Linnaean name *Pharnaceum depressum* L. was listed as a heterotypic synonym. However, it is to be noted that, if *Ph. depressum* is actually a member of *Polycarpon*, the combination *P. depressum* (L.) DC., which was published in 1828 by Candolle (1828: 375) in the 3rd volume of his *Prodromus*, would have priority over Decainse's binomial, published in 1835 (Decainse, 1835: 263) and currently accepted. It should be noted also that the basionym of Candolle's nomenclatural combination (i.e. *Pharnaceum depressum*, published in 1771) have priority over Forsskal's *Alsine prostrata* (basionym of *Polycarpon prostratum*, published in 1775).

The type specimens and other original material of the names investigated in the present study display characters that identify all of them as belonging to the genus *Polycarpon*, not *Polycarpaea*. According to literature (see, e.g., Chater, Akeroyd, 1993; Lu et al., 2001; Rabeler, Hartman, 2005; Arya et al., 2021; Hoang et al., 2024; Iamonico, Montesinos-Tubée, 2025a), these two genera differ by the shape of leaves (obovate to spatulate in *Polycarpon versus* linear in *Polycarpaea*) and the sepals [hyaline only at margin (not scarious sepals) in *Polycarpon versus* hyaline throughout in *Polycarpaea* (scarious sepals)]; the material examined clearly shows oblong-spatulate leaves and sepals scarious only at margins. Thus, all of the names involved are to be identified as *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* s. l. according to the current concept of *Polycarpon* (see, e.g., Iamonico 2015a, 2015c, 2017a; Iamonico, Domina, 2015; Iamonico, Montesinos-Tubée, 2025a). Among the currently recognized subspecies under *P. tetraphyllum*, these plants are morphologically similar to both subsp. *tetraphyllum* and subsp. *peruvianus* Montesinos & Iamonico in their habit (annual herbs; but note that subsp. *tetraphyllum* can be also perennial) and arrangement of the leaves (mostly in whorls of four). Differences with subsp. *tetraphyllum* and subsp. *peruvianus* include (1) the shape of stipules (triangular-acuminate in subsp. *peruvianus versus* lanceolate-acute in the herbarium specimens here studied, or ovate to lanceolate and acute to acuminate in subsp. *tetraphyllum*); (2) arrangement of flowers (lax in subsp. *tetraphyllum versus* dense in subsp. *peruvianus* and in the specimens studied); (3) structure of sepals (obtuse and not keeled in the specimens studied *versus* acute to acuminate and keeled in both subsp. *peruvianus* and subsp. *tetraphyllum*); (4) length of the petals (less than 1 mm in subsp. *tetraphyllum versus* 1 to 2 mm in subsp. *peruvianus* and in the specimens studied); and (5) length of fruits (1 to 2 mm in subsp. *peruvianus* and subsp. *tetraphyllum versus* 2 to 2.5 mm in the specimens studied).

Considering the above arguments, I here propose to recognize the taxon originally described by Linnaeus (1771: 562) as *Pharnaceum depressum*, by Forsskål (1775: 207) as *Alsine prostrata*, by Delile (1813: 211) as *Polycarpaea memphitica*, and by Kunth & Bouché (in Kunth, 1848: 15) as *Polycarpaea mozambica*, as a subspecies of *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*. The epithet of the Linnaean name *Pharnaceum depressum* cannot be used at the subspecies rank to avoid homonymy; the name *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* subsp. *depressum* (Nutt.) Iamonico (based on *Polycarpon depressum* Nutt.) already exists and it refers to a different taxon endemic to an area from California (western United States of America) to north of Mexico in Baja California (Iamonico, 2015a). The second available name is Forsskål's *Alsine prostrata*; it is here used for the proposed nomenclatural combination.

Taxonomic treatment

Polycarpon tetraphyllum (L.) L., Syst. Nat., Ed. 10 2: 881. 1759 subsp. ***prostratum*** (Forssk.) Iamonico, *comb. et stat. nov.* ≡ *Alsine prostrata* Forssk., Fl. Aegypt.-Arab.: 207. 1775 ≡ *Arenaria prostrata* (Forssk.) Ser. in A.P. de Candolle, Prodr. 1: 400. 1824 ≡ *Spergularia prostrata* (Forssk.) G. Don in Gen. Hist. 1: 425. 1831 ≡ *Spergula prostrata* (Forssk.) D. Dietr., Syn. Plant. 2: 1598. 1840 ≡ *Robbairea prostrata* (Forssk.) Boiss., Fl. Orient.

1: 735. 1867 ≡ *Polycarpon prostratum* (Forssk.) Asch. & Schweinf., Oesterr. Bot. Z. 39: 128. 1889.
TYPE (**lectotype, here designated**): Egypt, Cairo, *P. Forsskål 559* (C10001619!; image of the lectotype available at: https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.c10001619).

= *Pharnaceum depressum* L., Mant. Pl. Alt.: 562. 1771 (non *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* subsp. *depressum* (Nutt.) Iamonico, Novon 24: 162. 2015) ≡ *Loeflingia indica* Retz., Observ. Bot. (Retzius) 4: 8. 1786, *nom. illeg. et superfl.* (Art. 52.1 of the *ICN*) ≡ *Hapalosia loeflingiae* Wall. ex Wight & Arn., Prodr. Fl. Ind. Orient. 1: 358. 1834, *nom. illeg. et superfl.* (Art. 52.1 of the *ICN*) ≡ *Arversia depressa* (L.) Klotzsch in W.C.H. Peters, Naturw. Reise Mossambique 6(Bot., 1): 140. 1861.
TYPE (**lectotype**, designated by Turrill (1956: 5) as "holotype", **here corrected** by Art. 9.10 of the *ICN*): LINN No. 387.4!; image of the lectotype available at https://linnean.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_de6c379d-3bd3-4230-b562-c0acc906d645/).

= *Polycarpaea memphitica* Delile, Descr. Egypte, Hist. Nat. 2(Mém.): 211. 1813 ≡ *Lahaya memphitica* (Delile) Schult. in Roem. & Schult., Syst. Veg. Ed. 15: 406. 1819 ≡ *Mollia memphitica* (Delile) Colla, Herb. Pedem. 2: 473. 1834 ≡ *Arversia memphitica* (Delile) Webb, Fragm. Fl. Aethiop.-Aegypt.: 40. 1854 ≡ *Polycarpon memphiticum* (Delile) Fenzl ex Broun & Massey, Fl. Sudan: 71. 1929.
TYPE (**lectotype, here designated**): Egypt, Bord du Nil près du Caire, s.d., *A.F. Delile s.n.* (MPU006957!; image of the lectotype available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.mpu006957).

= *Polycarpaea mozambica* Kunth & Bouché, Index Seminum [Berlin] 1848: 15. 1848.
TYPE (**neotype, here designated**): Mozambique, Gorongosa National Park, sandy banks of Urema River, 12 October 2015, *J. Guyton et B. Würsten JAG_15_699* (BR0000027333532V!; image of the neotype available at https://www.botanicalcollections.be/specimen/BR0000027333532V).

– *Polycarpon pusillum* Roxb. ex Wight & Arn., Prodr. Fl. Ind. Orient. 1: 358. 1834, *nom. inval. pro syn. Hopalosia loeflingiae* Wall. ex Wight & Arn. (Art. 36.1b of the *ICN*).

– *Lepigonum prostratum* Kindb., Monogr. Gen. Lepigon. 44. 1863, *nom. inval.* (Art. 36.1 of the *ICN*).

Amended description: Plants annual (therophyte); stems prostrate or ascending, 10–25 cm tall, usually pubescent (sometimes glabrous); leaves mostly in whorls of four, obovate or spatulate, (3–)5–15(–25) × (0.3–)1.5–2.5(–5) mm, glabrous or pubescent, base attenuate, apex usually acute; stipules scarious, lanceolate, acute, 1–2 mm long; inflorescences in dense cymes both axillary and terminal, subtended by two bracts stipule-like; flowers sessile or shortly pedicellate (pedicel up to 5 mm long, pubescent); sepals ovate, 2.5–3.0(–4.0) mm long, not keeled, apex obtuse, margin hyaline (each hyaline part up to 1/3 the total width of the sepal); petals usually 5, membranous, entire, oblong and less than 1/2 as long as sepals (1.0–1.5 mm long); stamens usually 3, shorter than the sepals; fruit (capsule) ovoid, slightly shorter than the sepals (2.0–2.5 mm long); seed brown, reticulate, ca. 0.5 mm.

Distribution and habitat: Mainly in tropical and subtropical areas of Africa and Asia on sandy riverbanks and, as a weed, in farmlands, at 200–1500 m a.s.l.

Note on the name "*Lepigonum prostratum*": Kindberg (1863: 44), in his *Monographia Generis Lepigonorum*, published the name "*Lepigonum prostratum*" as a species to be excluded from the genus *Lepigonum* Wahlenb., stating it is a synonym of Forsskål's *Alsine prostrata* ("*Lepigonum prostratum* Kindb. syn. (Alsine prostrata Forsk. et Delile, Spergularia prostrata Boiss.) et *Alsine succulenta* Delile, priori affinis, stylo unico trifido et alieno habitu distinguuntur et ad novum genus versimiliter pertinent"; English translation: "*Lepigonum prostratum* Kindb. syn. (Alsine prostrata Forsk. et Delile, Spergularia prostrata Boiss.) and *Alsine succulenta* Delile, closely related [or similar] to the former, are distinguished by a single trifid style and an unusual habit and probably belong to a new genus"). It is evident that the combination "*Lepigonum prostratum* Kindb.", currently reported by various online databases (IPNI, 2026–onward; POWO, 2026–onward; WFO, 2026–onward), was not actually accepted by Kindberg because (1) it was listed among taxa to be excluded from *Lepigonum* ("*Species e genere Lepigonorum excludendae*") and (2) Kindberg explicitly added the abbreviation "*syn.*" (synonym!) after that name. He also supposed that this taxon,

as well as *Alsine succulenta* Delile related or similar to it, should be probably placed in a new genus. Consequently, Art. 36.1 of the *ICN* should be applied here: "A name is not validly published when it is not accepted by its author(s) in the original publication"; see also Art. 31.3 ("... the name must always be explicitly accepted in the place of its valid publication"). The name "*Lepigonum prostratum*" is thus invalid.

Other specimens examined: Egypt, Cairo, *P. Forsskål 551* (C10001618!; original material for *Alsine prostrata*, image available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/viewer/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.c10001617); *ibidem*, *P. Forsskål 924* (C10001618!; original material for *Alsine prostrata*, image available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/viewer/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.c10001618?loggedin=true); *ibidem*, *P. Forsskål 925* (C10001620!; original material for *Alsine prostrata*, image available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/viewer/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.c10001620); Egypt, Bord du Nil près du Caire, 1822, *A.F. Delile s.n.* (MPU021887!; image available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/viewer/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.mpu021887?loggedin=true); Egypt, s.d., *A.F. Delile s.n.* (MPU006958!; image available at https://plants.jstor.org/stable/viewer/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.mpu006958?loggedin=true&loggedin=true). India, *N. Wallich 6962* (K001126381!; image available at https://www.gbif.org/fr/occurrence/1051261560); *J.G. Konig s.n.* (C10009168!; image available at: https://plants.jstor.org/stable/viewer/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.c10009168); *ibidem* (C10009169!; image available at: https://plants.jstor.org/stable/viewer/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.c10009169).

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the directors and curators of all cited herbaria for their support. I am also grateful to Rafaël H.A. Govaerts (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) for the useful discussion about the treatment of *Polycarpon* in POWO. I would like to thank the anonymous reviewer and Peter J. de Lange (Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland, Aotearoa / New Zealand) for their valuable comments and suggestions, which helped improve the manuscript, and Sergei L. Mosyakin (M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine) who made important edits.

ETHICS DECLARATION

The author declares no conflict of interest.

ORCID

D. Iamonico https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5491-7568

REFERENCES

Arya S., Kumar V.N.S.A., Pillai A.V., Alen A.P., Sojan J., Suresh V. 2022. Three new species of *Polycarpaea* (*Caryophyllaceae*) from Kerala, South India. *PhytoKeys*, 213: 95–110. https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.213.89875

Chater A.O., Akeroyd J.R. 1993. *Polycarpon*. In: *Flora Europaea*. 2nd ed. Vol. 1. Eds T.G. Tutin, N.A. Burges, A.O. Chater, J.R. Edmondson, H.V. Heywood, D.M. Moore, D.H. Valentine, S.M. Walters, D.A. Webb. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 184–185.

Decainse J. 1835. Florula Sinaica. *Annales des Sciences Naturelles, Botanique. Sér. 2*, 3: 257–291.

de Candolle A.P. 1828. *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis*. Vol. 3. Parisiis [Paris]: Treuttel et Würtz, 494 pp. https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.286

Delile A.R. 1813. *Description de l'Égypte, ou, Recueil des observations et des recherches qui ont été faites en Égypte pendant l'expédition de l'armée française*. Vol. 2. Paris: Imprimerie impériale, 611 pp.

Eggli U., Leuenberger B.E. 2008. Type specimens of *Cactaceae* names in the Berlin Herbarium (B) [De herbario berolinensi notulae 48]. *Willdenowia*, 38: 213–280. https://doi.org/10.3372/wi.38.38116

Forsskål P. 1775. *Flora Aegyptiaco-Arabica. Sive Descriptiones Plantarum, quas per Aegyptum Inferiorem et Arabium felicem detexit, illustravit Petrus Forskål*. Hauniae [Copenhagen / Kjóbenhavn]: Ex officina Mölleri, 219 pp.

GBIF. 2026–onward. *Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Polycarpon prostratum* (Forssk.) Asch. & Schweinf. Available from: https://www.gbif.org/species/7430434 (Accessed 22 March 2026).

Greenberg A.K., Donoghue M.J. 2018. Molecular systematics and character evolution in *Caryophyllaceae*. *Taxon*, 60(6): 1637–1652. https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.606009

Harbaugh D.T., Nepokroeff M., Rabeler R.K., McNeill J., Zimmer E.A., Wagner W.L. 2010. A new lineage-based tribal classification of the family *Caryophyllaceae*. *International Journal of Plant Science*, 171(2): 185–198. https://doi.org/10.1086/648993

Hernández-Ledesma P., Berendsohn W.G., Borsch T., Mering S. von, Akhani H., Arias S., Castañeda-Noa I., Eggli U., Eriksson R., Flores-Olvera H., Fuentes-Bazán S., Kadereit G., Klak C., Korotkova N., Nyffeler R., Ocampo G., Ochoterena H., Oxelman B., Rabeler R.K., Sanchez A., Schlumpberger B.O., Uotila P. 2015. A taxonomic backbone for the global synthesis of species diversity in the angiosperm order *Caryophyllales*. *Willdenowia*, 45(3): 281–383. https://doi.org/10.3372/wi.45.45301

Hiepko P. 1987. The collections of the Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem (B) and their history. *Englera*, 7 [special issue: *Botany in Berlin*, ed. H. Scholtz]: 219–252. https://doi.org/10.2307/3776724

Hitchcock A.S., Green M.L. 1929. Proposal IV. Standard species of Linnean genera of Phanerogamae (1753-54). In: *International Botanical Congress, Cambridge (England), 1930*. *Nomenclature. Proposals by British botanists*. London: HMSO, pp. 110–199.

Hoang T.T., Le L.B., Le N.T.K., Nguyen M.T.A., Truong A.T.L., Tran N.T., Tran, V.T., Le S.V., Duong K.T., Hoang K.V.B., Le T.N., Nguyen B.V., Tran T.V. 2024. Molecular phylogeny and cryptic morphology: A combined approach to taxonomic novelties in *Polycarpaea* (*Caryophyllaceae*) from Vietnam. *PLoS One*, 19(10): e0301407. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0301407

HUH-Index of Botanists 2013. *Miller, Philip*. Available at: https://kiki.huh.harvard.edu/databases/botanist_search.php?mode=details&id=143 (Accessed 22 March 2026).

Iamonico D. 2013. *Notula* 1997. *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* L. subsp. *polycarpoides* (Biv.) Iamonico comb. et stat. nov. (*Caryophyllaceae*). In: Notulae nomenclaturali alla Checklist della flora italiana: 15. *Informatore Botanico Italiano*, 45(1): 105.

Iamonico D. 2015a. A new combination and change in rank in *Polycarpon* (*Caryophyllaceae*), endemic to California, U.S.A., and Mexico. *Novon*, 24: 159–164. https://doi.org/10.3417/2014018

Iamonico D. 2015b. A new nomenclatural change in *Polycarpon* (*Caryophyllaceae*): *P. tetraphyllum* subsp. *sauvagei* comb. & stat. nov., an endemic taxon from Morocco. *Phytotaxa*, 197(3): 225–226. https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.197.3.7

Iamonico D. 2015c. *Augustea* (*Polycarpaeae*, *Caryophyllaceae*), a new genus from South America. *Phytotaxa*, 236(1): 71–78. https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.236.1.6

Iamonico D. 2015d. *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* subsp. *dunense* (P. Fraga et Rosseló) Iamonico, comb. et stat. nov. In: Euro+Med-Cheklist Notulae 4. Eds E. von Raab-Straube, T. Raus. *Willdenowia*, 45(1): 119–129. https://doi.org/10.3372/wi.45.45113

Iamonico D. 2017a. *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* subsp. *arabicum* comb. et stat. nov. (*Caryophyllaceae*), a taxon from the Eastern Mediterranean-Arabian area. *Atti della Società Toscana di Scienze naturali, Memorie, Serie B*, 123: 5–8.

Iamonico D. 2017b. *Polycarpon*. In: *Flora d'Italia*. Vol. 2. Ed. S. Pignatti. Bologna: Edagricole, pp. 146–147.

Iamonico D., Domina G. 2015. Nomenclatural notes on the *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* aggregate (*Caryophyllaceae*). *Plant Biosystems*, 149(4): 720–727. https://doi.org/10.1080/11263504.2015.1057260

Iamonico D., Montesinos-Tubée D.B. 2017. *Augustea moreirana* comb. nov. (*Caryophyllaceae*), an endemic species from Chile. *Phytotaxa*, 327(3): 299–300. https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.327.3.11

Iamonico D., Montesinos-Tubée D.B. 2025a. Notes on the genus *Polycarpon* (*Caryophyllaceae*) in South America, with the description of a new subspecies from Peru. *Acta Botanica Mexicana*, 132: e2461. https://doi.org/10.21829/abm132.2025.2461

Iamonico D., Montesinos-Tubée, D.B. 2025b. (3105) Proposal to reject the name *Polycarpon urbanianum* (*Caryophyllaceae*). *Taxon*, 74(4): 990–991. https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.70010

Iamonico D., Zanotti C. 2022. On the taxonomical identity of the South American *Polycarpon apurense* (*Caryophyllaceae*) with clarification on its distribution. *Bonplandia*, 31(1): 89–95. https://doi.org/10.30972/bon.3115824

Iamonico D., Hassemer G., Rønsted N., Di Pietro R. 2017. The intricate nomenclatural questions around *Plantago holosteum* (*Plantaginaceae*). *Phytotaxa*, 306(1): 75–84. https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.306.1.6

IPNI. 2026–onward. *International Plant Names Index*. Available at: https://www.ipni.org/ (Accessed 22 March 2026).

Jarvis C.[E.] 2007. *Order out of chaos: Linnaean plant names and their types*. London: Linnean Society of London with the Natural History Museum, xi + 1016 pp.

Kindberg N.C. 1863. Monographia Generis Lepigonorum. *Nova Acta Regiae Societatis Scientiarum Upsaliensis*, *ser. 3*, 4(7): 1–44. Available at: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/52731#page/231/mode/1up

Kool A., Bengtson A., Thulin M. 2007. Polyphyly of *Polycarpon* (*Caryophyllaceae*) inferred from DNA sequence data. *Taxon*, 56(3): 775–782. https://doi.org/10.2307/25065859

Kunth K.S. 1848. *Index Seminum in Horti Botanici Berolinensis anno 1848 collectorum. Species novae horti regii botanici Berolinensis*. Berlin: Typis C. Feisteri, 16 pp. Available at: https://seedlists.naturalis.nl/content/index-seminum-horto-botanico-berolinensi-anno-1848-collectorum-species-novae-horti-regii

Leong-Škorničková L., Šída O., Marhold K. 2010. Back to types! Towards stability of names in Indian *Curcuma* L. (*Zingiberaceae*). *Taxon*, 59(1): 269–282. https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.591025

Linnaeus C. 1753. *Species plantarum*. Vols.1–2. Holmiae [Stockholm]: Impensis Laurentii Salvii. 1200 pp. https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.669

Linnaeus C. 1759. *Systema naturae*. 10th ed. Vol. 2. Holmiae [Stockholm]: Impensis Direct. Laurentii Salvii. 559 pp. https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.542

Linnaeus C. 1760. *Plantae Rariores Africanae*. Holmiae [Stockholm]: Impensis Direct. Laurentii Salvii, 28 pp.
Linnaeus C. 1771. *Mantissa plantarum altera*. Holmiae [Stockholm]: Impensis Direct. Laurentii Salvii. 409 pp. + 23 pp. [Appendix]. https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.69083
Lu D.Q., Wu Z.Y, Zhou L.H., Chen S.L. Gilbert M.G., Lidén M., McNeill J., Morton J.K., Oxelman B., Rabeler R.K., Thulin M., Turland N.J., Wagner W.L. 2001. *Caryophyllaceae*. In: *Flora of China*. Vol. 6. Eds Z.Y. Wu, P.H. Raven, D.Y. Hong. Beijing: Science Press & St. Louis: Missouri Botanical Garden Press, pp. 1–113.
Montesinos-Tubée D.B., Iamonico D. 2023. Neotypification for five names linked to *Arenaria* (*Caryophyllaceae*) for the endemic flora of Peru and Bolivia. *PhytoKeys*, 230: 131–144. https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.230.107263
POWO. 2026–onward. *Plants of the World Online*. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Available at: https://powo.science.kew.org/ (Accessed 22 March 2026).
Rabeler R.K., Hartman R.L. 2005. *Caryophyllaceae*. In: *Flora of North America North of Mexico*. Vol. 5. Eds. Flora of North America Editorial Committee. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 3–8.
Smissen R.D., Clement J.C., Garnock-Jones P.J., Chambers G.K. 2002. Subfamilial relationships within *Caryophyllaceae* as inferred from 5' *ndhF* sequences. *American Journal of Botany*, 89(8): 1336–1341. https://doi.org/10.3732/ajb.89.8.1336
Thiers B. 2026–onward [continuously updated]. *Index Herbariorum. A global directory of public herbaria and associated staff*. New York Botanical Garden's Virtual Herbarium. Available at: http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/ih (Accessed 22 March 2026).
Turland N.J., Wiersema J.H., Barrie F.R., Gandhi K.N., Gravendyck J., Greuter W., Hawksworth D.L., Herendeen P.S., Klopper R.R., Knapp S., Kusber W.-H., Li D.-Z., May T.W., Monro A.M., Prado J., Price M.J., Smith G.F., Zamora Señoret J.C. 2025. *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (Madrid Code)* [*Regnum Vegetabile*, 162]. Chicago, USA: University of Chicago Press. https://doi.org/10.7208/chicago/9780226839479.001.0001, https://www.iaptglobal.org/_functions/code/madrid
Turner I.M. 2022. From *Acacia* to *Ziziphus*: plant names commemorating the botanist William Roxburgh. *Edinburgh Journal of Botany*, 79: 1–102. https://doi.org/10.24823/ejb.2022.1911
Turrill W.B. 1956. *Caryophyllaceae*. In: *Flora of Tropical East Africa*. Eds E. Milne-Redhead, W.B. Turrill, C.E. Hubbard, R.M. Polhill, H. Beentje, S.A. Ghazanfar. London: Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations, pp. 1–38.
WFO. 2026–onward. *World Flora Online*. Available at: https://www.worldfloraonline.org/ (Accessed 22 March 2026).
Zanotti C.A., Moroni P., Acosta J.M. 2022. Morphological and molecular studies support the presence of the genus *Microphyes* in Argentina and its phylogenetic position in the tribe *Polycarpeae* (*Caryophyllaceae*). *Darwiniana, nueva serie*, 10(2): 388–403.

Про ліннеївську назву *Pharnaceum depressum* (*Caryophyllales*), її таксономічну ідентичність, сучасний обсяг і деякі пов'язані назви

Д. ІАМОНІКО
Римський університет Сапієнца, Рим, Італія

Реферат. У статті йдеться про таксономічну ідентичність і номенклатуру ліннеївської назви *Pharnaceum depressum*, опублікованої в другому виданні *Mantissa Plantarum*, яку залежно від таксономічного трактування відносили до родів *Polycarpon* або *Polycarpaea* родини *Caryophyllaceae*. Вказаний Турріллом голотип для *Pharnaceum depressum* виправлено на лектотип відповідно до Ст. 9.10 *Міжнародного кодексу номенклатури водоростей, грибів і рослин* (*ICN*). Назви, пов'язані з *Ph. depressum* (*Alsine prostrata* Forssk., *Polycarpaea memphitica* Delile та *Polycarpaea mozambica* Kunth & C.D. Bouché), типіфіковано зразками з гербаріїв C (лекто-), MPU (лекто-) і BR (неотип), відповідно, та синонімізовано з *Ph. depressum*. Назва "*Lepigonum prostratum*", згадана Кіндбергом, яка наводиться у кількох базах даних, не є валідно опублікованою згідно зі Ст. 36.1 *ICN*. Морфологічні дослідження типів та інших зразків підтверджують їхню приналежність до роду *Polycarpon*, оскільки вони мають видовжено-лопатоподібні листки і чашолистки з плямами лише по краях. Опрацьований матеріал демонструє схожість із середземноморським таксоном *P. tetraphyllum* subsp. *tetraphyllum* і перуанським ендеміком *P. tetraphyllum* subsp. *peruvianum*, але відрізняється за кількома ознаками (формою прилистків, розташуванням квіток, будовою чашолистків, довжиною пелюсток і довжиною плодів). Отже, описаний Ліннеєм таксон *Pharnaceum depressum*, а також *Alsine prostrata*, *Polycarpaea memphitica* та *Polycarpaea mozambica*, запропоновано визнавати як підвид виду *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*. Оскільки пріоритетний видовий епітет (ліннеївської назви *Ph. depressum*) не може бути використаний через наявність законної назви *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* subsp. *depressum* Iamonico (яка стосується іншого таксона, ендемічного для Каліфорнії та Мексики), запропоновано нову комбінацію на основі *Alsine prostrata*.

Ключові слова: *Alsine prostrata*, *Polycarpaea memphitica*, *Polycarpaea mozambica*, *Polycarpon*, лектотип, Лінней, неотип, номенклатурна зміна, синонім, типіфікація