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RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Further nomenclatural adjustments in *Aria* and *Hedlundia* (*Rosaceae*)

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**Abstract.** Following our simplified taxonomic and nomenclatural concept of generic delimitation in the group of *Sorbus* s. l. (*Rosaceae: Maleae*) and recent nomenclatural transfers made in 2025, we provide here some necessary updates and corrections. In particular, by oversight, two nomenclatural combinations based on the same basionym (*Sorbus paxiana* Jáv.) and referable to the same taxon were published simultaneously in our article of 2025: “*Aria paxiana*” and “*Hedlundia paxiana*”. Despite the explanation available in our text that in our scheme treating *Aria* in a wide sense this taxon should be placed in *Hedlundia*, it looked as publications of two alternative names for the same taxon, and thus the combinations have not been validly published because they were unintentionally (but still confusingly for a potential reader) presented as *de facto* alternative names. Here the new combination *Hedlundia paxiana* (Jáv.) Mosyakin, Fedor. & McNeill is properly validated. It is concluded that the combination *Aria colchica* (Zinserl.) Mezhsenskyj was validly published in 2018, despite the error in citing the epithet of the basionym (“*buschiana*” instead of *colchica*). New combinations *Hedlundia oravica* (Velebil, Bernátová, M. Lepší & P. Lepší) Mosyakin, McNeill & Fedor. and *Aria fayana* (L. Houston & T.C.G. Rich) Mosyakin, McNeill & Fedor. are validated for two species recently described in *Sorbus*.

**Keywords:** *Aria*, *Hedlundia*, new combinations, nomenclature, *Rosaceae*, taxonomy

### Introduction

In our article “Simplifying the nomenclature of *Sorbus* sensu lato: new nomenclatural solutions in *Aria* and *Hedlundia* (*Rosaceae*)” published 9 June 2025 (Mosyakin et al., 2025a), we made more than 100 new combinations in the re-circumscribed genera *Aria* (Pers.) Host and *Hedlundia* Sennikov & Kurtto. Shortly after the publication of the article we noticed that the authorship of the basionym of

the new combination *Hedlundia tauricola* was incorrectly cited as “(Jáv.)”, while it should be “(Zaik. ex Sennikov)”. However, in a correction note published as an electronic supplement to our article (Mosyakin et al., 2025b) we explained that

“This correctable error does not preclude valid publication of the new nomenclatural combination; see Art. 41.6 of the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (Turland

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et al., 2018, 2024, 2025): ‘For names published on or after 1 January 1953, errors in the citation of the basionym or replaced synonym, including incorrect author citation (Art. 46), but not omissions (Art. 41.5), do not preclude valid publication of a new combination, name at new rank, or replacement name’. The corrected entry for *H. tauricola* is provided below.”

We then cited the corrected entry, which is copied here in our present printed and electronic article:

“***Hedlundia tauricola*** (Zaik. ex Sennikov) Mosyakin, Fedor. & McNeill, comb. nov.  $\equiv$  *Sorbus tauricola* Zaik. ex Sennikov, Willdenowia 43: 39. 2013 [Zaik., Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast. 22: 137. 1985, nom. inval.]  $\equiv$  *Karpatiosorbus tauricola* (Zaik. ex Sennikov) Sennikov & Kurtto, Memoranda Soc. Fauna Fl. Fenn. 93: 63. 2017  $\equiv$  *Pyrus tauricola* (Zaik. ex Sennikov) M.F. Fay & Christenh., Global Fl. 4: 123. 2018  $\equiv$  *Aria tauricola* (Zaik. ex Sennikov) Fedor., Chornomors’k. Bot. Zhurn. 18(4): 314. 2022 [Fedor., Ukrayins’k. Bot. Zhurn. 74: 10. 2017, nom. inval.]” (see Mosyakin et al., 2025b: ec1).

However, that was not the only omission or oversight present in our article (Mosyakin et al., 2025a). We address two other problems below, and also discuss the proper generic placement of two species recently described in *Sorbus* L. s. l.

### The proper placement of *Sorbus paxiana*: *Aria* or *Hedlundia*?

Rafaël Govaerts (personal communication: email message to John McNeill and IPNI Editors of 13 April 2026) noticed that two nomenclatural combinations based on the same basionym and referable to the same taxon were published simultaneously in this article. Indeed, the article contained the combinations “*Aria paxiana* (Jáv.) Mosyakin, Fedor. & McNeill, comb. nov.” (Mosyakin et al., 2025a: 215) and “*Hedlundia paxiana* (Jáv.) Mosyakin, Fedor. & McNeill, comb. nov.” (ibid., page 216), both based on *Sorbus paxiana* Jáv. (in Magyar Bot. Lapok 25: 89. 1927, vol. of “1926”), also treated taxonomically by other authors as *Karpatiosorbus paxiana* (Jáv.) Sennikov & Kurtto (Sennikov, Kurtto, 2017: 62) or *Pyrus paxiana* (Jáv.) M.F. Fay & Christenh. (Christenhuzs et al., 2018: 115).

Govaerts in his message also mentioned that on page 210 of their article Mosyakin et al. (2025a:

210) discussed separately several taxa, including *Sorbus paxiana*, and they noted that “In our scheme treating *Aria* in a wide sense, these taxa should be placed in *Hedlundia*.” To that Govaerts (l.c.) added “I’m not sure that is enough to say that *Aria paxiana* is not accepted by the authors.”

Indeed, the explanation on page 210 of our article (Mosyakin et al., 2025a) clearly indicates that in our scheme treating *Aria* in a wide sense the taxon known as *Sorbus paxiana* should be placed in *Hedlundia*, not in *Aria*. This adjustment has been made at a late stage of preparation of our manuscript; the intended combination *Hedlundia paxiana* was added but the combination “*Aria paxiana*” (present in an earlier version of the manuscript) has not been deleted. In fact, that was a technical error and oversight. However, the mentioned explanation on page 210 of our article (see above) is not sufficient for considering the combination *Hedlundia paxiana* validly published because the name *Aria paxiana* was also present in the article as a new combination, and it was not explicitly stated that the authors do not accept that name. From a technical viewpoint, it looked as two alternative names for the same taxon.

Thus, we conclude that the names *Hedlundia paxiana* and *Aria paxiana* have not been validly published because they were unintentionally (but still confusingly for a potential reader) presented as *de facto* alternative names (Art. 36.3 of the ICN).

Here we provide the correct new combination explicitly accepted in *Hedlundia*:

***Hedlundia paxiana*** (Jáv.) Mosyakin, Fedor. & McNeill, **comb. nov.**  $\equiv$  *Sorbus paxiana* Jáv., Magyar Bot. Lapok 25: 89. “1926” (publ. 1927)  $\equiv$  *Karpatiosorbus paxiana* (Jáv.) Sennikov & Kurtto, Memoranda Soc. Fauna Fl. Fenn. 93: 62. 2017  $\equiv$  *Pyrus paxiana* (Jáv.) M.F. Fay & Christenh., Global Fl. 4: 115. 2018.

### The problem of *Aria colchica*

In our article (Mosyakin et al., 2025a) we briefly discussed several taxa of *Sorbus* sensu lato, mainly Caucasian or western Asian ones, that have been already transferred to *Aria* by Mezhenksyj (in Mezhenkska et al., 2018), such as *Aria albobovii* (Zinserl.) Mezhenksyj, *A. buschiana* (Zinserl.) Mezhenksyj, *A. fedorovii* (Zaikonn.) Mezhenksyj, *A. migarica* (Zinserl.) Mezhenksyj, etc.

However, when proposing the nomenclatural combination in *Aria* for *Sorbus colchica* Zinserl., Mezhen-skyj (in Mezhen-ska et al., 2018: 31) instead of the proper basionym cited the basionym of his previous combination (most probably a technical “copy-paste” error):

“*Aria colchica* (Zinserl. [sic!]) Mezhen-skyj, **comb. nov.** – *Sorbus buschiana* Zinserl., Fl. USSR 9: 391, 494. 1939”.

There are possible at least two interpretations for this nomenclatural case. First, we may assume that the intended combination “*A. colchica* (Zinserl.) Mezhen-skyj” was not validly published in 2018 because the basionym has not been cited (see Art. 41.1 of the *ICN*: “To be validly published, a new combination, name at new rank, or replacement name must be accompanied by a **reference to the basionym** or replaced synonym”). If that is the case, then the combination should be validated with indication of the correct basionym.

From the other hand, Mezhen-skyj, indeed, **provided** the reference to the basionym, but with an error, and cited the basionym, but the wrong one.

Under that interpretation, *Aria colchica* would appear to have been validly published under Art. 41.6 and 41.8(c) by Mezhen-skyj in his 2018 publication (in Mezhen-ska et al., 2018) as a new combination based on *Sorbus colchica* Zinserl. Although it was a different taxonomic entry reported in the work that Mezhen-skyj provided rather than a different work as specified in Art. 41.8, we are inclined to this view because, otherwise, “*Aria colchica* Mezhen-skyj” would be a validly published but illegitimate replacement name for *Sorbus buschiana* Zinserl.

According to Art. 41.6 of the *ICN*, “For names published on or after 1 January 1953, errors in the citation of the basionym or replaced synonym, including incorrect author citation (Art. 46), but not omissions (Art. 41.5), do not preclude valid publication of a new combination, name at new rank, or replacement name”. Should we then consider the wrong epithet of the basionym (“*buschiana*” instead of the correct epithet “*colchica*”) as a correctable error, as outlined in Art. 41.6? Indeed, there is no omission in Mezhen-skyj’s citation of the basionym; the name of the genus, the book, volume, pages, and year are cited correctly, and only the epithet is erroneous. So one must either accept Mezhen-skyj’s citation of the intended basionym “*Sorbus buschiana* Zinserl., Fl. USSR 9: 391, 494. 1939” as a correctable

error for “*Sorbus colchica* Zinserl., Fl. URSS 9: 391, 494. 1939” or else find a new epithet for the species in *Aria* because under the second interpretation Mezhen-skyj published an illegitimate “*Aria colchica*” with a type different from that of *Sorbus colchica*. We accept thus the first interpretation.

We admit that such situations as the one described here is not explicitly addressed in the current version of the *International Code of Nomenclature of algae, fungi, and plants (ICN: Turland et al., 2025)*. Probably some amendments should be considered for Art. 41 of the *ICN* to cover such cases as wrong citation (but not omission!) of a basionym or replaced synonym. In particular, Art. 41.8 might be explicitly extended to cases of incorrect citation of a basionym.

In any case, we provide below the corrected entry, with Mezhen-skyj’s authorship.

*Aria colchica* (Zinserl.) Mezhen-skyj, in Mezhen-ska et al., *NULESU Coll. Fruit Ornament. Pl.*: 31. 2018 (comb. nov., with the basionym cited as “*Sorbus buschiana*”) ≡ *Sorbus colchica* Zinserl. in V.L. Komarov (ed.), *Fl. URSS 9: 391 (descr. ross.), 494 (descr. lat.)*. 1939 ≡ *Pyrus colchica* (Zinserl.) M.F. Fay & Christenh. in *Global Fl.* 4: 100. 2018.

### New combinations for recently described taxa

Since the publication of our article (Mosyakin et al., 2025a), new taxa of *Sorbus* sensu lato have been validly described, and some taxa have been transferred to other genera. For example, the recently described hybrid (nothospecies) or hybridogenous species *Sorbus* × *pseudoporrigitiformis* T.C.G. Rich & L. Houston (Rich, Houston, 2025: 31) as a supposed hybrid between *Sorbus porrigitiformis* E.F. Warb. and *S. aria* (L.) Crantz (currently recognized as *Aria porrigitiformis* (E.F. Warb.) Sennikov & Kurtto and *Aria edulis* (Willd.) M. Roem., respectively, in our taxonomic scheme and in POWO, 2026) has been already transferred to *Aria* as *A. × pseudoporrigitiformis* (T.C.G. Rich & L. Houston) Z.H. Feng (2026: 10) and to *Pyrus* sensu latissimo, as *Pyrus × pseudoporrigitiformis* (T.C.G. Rich & L. Houston) M.F. Fay (in Fay, Christenhusz, 2025: 145).

The species described recently as *Aria wyensis* D. Green (2024: 1) (and currently accepted in *Aria* in POWO: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/77346067-1>) was transferred to *Pyrus* sensu latissimo and to *Sorbus* sensu lato, as *Pyrus wyensis*

(D. Green) M.F. Fay (in Fay, Christenhusz, 2025: 146) and *Sorbus wyensis* (D. Green) T.C.G. Rich (in Rich, Houston, 2025: 34), respectively.

Some authors decided to follow the concept of a wide circumscription of *Sorbus*, at the same time recognizing its polyphyly. For example, when describing a new remarkable species *Sorbis oravica* Velebil, Bernátová, M. Lepší & P. Lepší, Velebil et al. (2025: 218) commented: “Due to the lack of a widely accepted consensus on adopting a taxonomic treatment and a revised nomenclatural system that assigns distinct generic names to some or all parental lineage within *Sorbus* s. l. (Sennikov 2018, Sennikov & Kurtto 2017, Mosyakin et al. 2025), we adhere to the traditional approach of including all species within *Sorbus*, as has been done in several recent studies (e.g., Lepší et al. 2019, Meyer et al. 2020, Velebil et al. 2022, Németh et al. 2025). Similarly, we do not accept the catch-all concept that includes *Sorbus* s. l. together with other related genera (e.g., *Cotoneaster*, *Cydonia*, *Malus*, *Photinia*) into a broadly defined genus *Pyrus* (Christenhusz et al. 2018)”.

Velebil et al. (2025: 231–232, 242–243) also stated that *Sorbus oravica* is closely related to *Sorbus hazslinszkyana* (Soó) Boros (which in our taxonomic scheme should be recognized as *Hedlundia hazslinszkyana* (Soó) Sennikov & Kurtto, 2017: 93) and several other species, and placed their new species in *Sorbus* subgen. *Soraria* Májovský & Bernátová. In our taxonomic scheme, this species should be placed in *Hedlundia*. The relevant combination is provided below:

***Hedlundia oravica*** (Velebil, Bernátová, M. Lepší & P. Lepší) Mosyakin, McNeill & Fedor., **comb. nov.** ≡ *Sorbus oravica* Velebil, Bernátová, M. Lepší & P. Lepší in Phytotaxa 732(3): 227. 2025)

We also provide here the new combination for the species recently described as *Sorbus fayana* L. Houston & T.C.G. Rich (Houston, Rich, 2025: 30), with its species name dedicated to Michael Francis Fay, a well-known British botanist, a co-author of ca. 800+ new combinations and new names in *Pyrus* sensu latissimo.

***Aria fayana*** (L. Houston & T.C.G. Rich) Mosyakin, McNeill & Fedor., **comb. nov.** ≡ *Sorbus fayana* L. Houston & T.C.G. Rich in Brit. Irish Bot. 7: 30. 2025 ≡ *Pyrus fayana* (L. Houston & T.C.G. Rich) Christenh. in Brit. Irish Bot. 7: 145. 2025.

## Concluding remarks

Despite a considerable progress in sorting out the nomenclature of the *Sorbus* group based on both traditional approaches and new molecular phylogenetic data in *Maleae* (Wang et al., 2024; Sun et al., 2024; Hu et al., 2025, etc.), there are still many taxonomic and nomenclatural problems remaining.

Conservation of the name *Aria* against *Chamaespilus* Medik. and *Torminalis* Medik. (Wilson, 2024), following our nomenclatural proposal (Mosyakin et al., 2022), opened an opportunity for simplifying the nomenclature of the polyphyletic group of genera until recently kept under the umbrella of *Sorbus* sensu lato.

Since our publication (Mosyakin et al., 2025a) advocating the “four-genera” solution, this concept has been accepted in POWO, with recognition of the genera *Sorbus* (<https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:30004837-2>), *Aria* (including *Chamaespilus* Medik., nom. rej.; *Karpatisorbus* Sennikov & Kurtto, *Majovskya* Sennikov & Kurtto, *Torminalis* Medik., nom. rej.: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:33661-1>), *Hedlundia* (including *Normeyera* Sennikov & Kurtto and *Scandosorbus* Sennikov: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77164890-1>), and *Cormus* Spach (<https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:33732-1>).

Also, our scheme (as “das neue ‘4-Gattungs-Konzept’ für *Sorbus* s. l.”) was positively discussed in the recent update to the published volumes of *Flora Germanica* (Hassler, 2026: 35–36). At the same time, many researchers still adhere to the traditional concept of a polyphyletic *Sorbus* sensu lato, mainly for pragmatic reasons (Fay, Rich, 2022; Rich, Houston, 2025; Velebil et al., 2025, etc.).

It should also be noted that many Asian (especially East Asian) taxa earlier placed in *Sorbus* s. l. and/or recently established genera *Alniaria* Rushforth, *Dunnaria* Rushforth, *Griffitharia* Rushforth, *Thomsonaria* Rushforth, and *Wilsonaria* Rushforth (2018) are now rather reliably placed in the monophyletic expanded *Micromeles* Decne. (Mezhenska et al., 2018; Hu et al., 2025).

Further studies will clarify the phylogenetic relationships of members of that taxonomically complicated group of *Maleae*, will probably bring some additional changes to generic circumscriptions, and will result in additional nomenclatural transfers.

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## ETHICS DECLARATION

Sergei Mosyakin, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Ukrainian Botanical Journal*, served for this specific manuscript exclusively as an author and had no involvement in the editorial process and decisions for this submission. The manuscript was handled independently by an Associate Editor.

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### Подальші номенклатурні зміни в родах *Aria* та *Hedlundia* (Rosaceae)

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**Реферат.** У межах нашої спрощеної таксономічної та номенклатурної концепції розмежування родів у групі *Sorbus* s. l. (Rosaceae: *Maleae*) та недавніх номенклатурних змін, здійснених у 2025 році, ми надаємо деякі необхідні номенклатурні доповнення та виправлення. Зокрема, через недогляд у нашій статті 2025 року було одночасно опубліковано дві номенклатурні комбінації, які засновані на одному базіонімі (*Sorbus paxiana* Jáv.) та стосуються одного таксона: “*Aria paxiana*” та “*Hedlundia paxiana*”. Незважаючи на наявне в нашому тексті пояснення того, що в нашому розумінні роду *Aria* в широкому сенсі, цей таксон слід включити до *Hedlundia*, це все ж виглядало як публікація двох альтернативних назв для одного й того ж таксона, а таким чином ці дві комбінації не були валідно опубліковані, оскільки вони були технічно представлені як фактично альтернативні назви. Відповідно, наводиться нова комбінація *Hedlundia paxiana* (Jáv.) Mosyakin, Fedor. & McNeill. Зроблено висновок, що комбінація *Aria colchica* (Zinserl.) Mezhenksyju була валідно опублікована у 2018 році, незважаючи на помилку в цитуванні епітета базіоніма (“*buschiana*” замість *colchica*). Нові комбінації *Hedlundia oravica* (Velebil, Bernátová, M. Lepší & P. Lepší) Mosyakin, McNeill & Fedor. та *Aria fayana* (L. Houston & T.C.G. Rich) Mosyakin, McNeill & Fedor. наведені для двох видів, нещодавно описаних у роді *Sorbus*.

**Ключові слова:** *Aria*, *Hedlundia*, Rosaceae, нові комбінації, номенклатура, таксономія