International Journal of Botany Studies
www.botanyjournals.com
ISSN: 2455-541X
Received: 07-06-2026, Accepted: 07-07-2026, Published: 22-07-2026
Volume 11, Issue 3, 2026, Page No. 150-152

Nomenclatural novelties in *Rubus* L. (*Rosaceae*: *Rubeae*)

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Abstract
A replacement name *Rubus jerzyi* Kottaim. & Y. Mahesh, is proposed for the illegitimate later homonym *Rubus magurensis* Wolanin, M. Nobis & Oklej, which is preoccupied by *R. magurensis* Nyár. In addition, the replacement names *Rubus amelanchierifolius* D.P. Mercier & Belhacène and *R. cailholii* Belhacène, as well as the new combination *R. glabrescens* (Sudre) D.P. Mercier & Belhacène, are here validated in accordance with the requirements of the Madrid Code of the ICN.

Keywords: Madrid Code, new combination, replacement name, *Rosaceae*, *Rubus*

Introduction

Rubus L. is the largest and one of the most taxonomically intricate genera of angiosperms (Huang *et al*., 2023; Ortiz *et al*. 2024; Salahi *et al*. 2025) [14, 23, 26], comprising between 863 (Chen *et al*. 2026) [6] and 1,576 accepted species (POWO 2026) [24], depending on the taxonomic concepts and species circumscription. The genus is widely distributed throughout the temperate and subtropical regions of the Northern Hemisphere (Lu 1983; Lu & Boufford 2003; Alice *et al*., 2015; Kasalkheh *et al*., 2024) [2, 17, 19, 20], with major centres of diversity in southeastern Asia, eastern Asia, and South America (Kalkman 1993) [16]. Among these, southwestern China is widely regarded as the primary centre of origin and diversification of *Rubus* (Lu & Boufford 2003; Chen *et al*., 2024; Xu *et al*., 2024; Yin *et al*. 2025) [7, 19, 42, 43]. Species delimitation within the genus remains particularly challenging owing to extensive morphological variation (Focke 1911, 1914; Weber 1973, 1986; Kalkman 1981, 1993; Mimura & Suga 2020; Ramírez 2026) [9, 10, 15, 16, 22, 25, 39, 40], frequent hybridization (Thompson 1997; Alice *et al*. 2001; Šarhanová *et al*., 2017) [1, 27, 36], polyploidization (Spies & Du Plessis 1985,1986; Spies *et al*., 1985, 1987; Sochor *et al*., 2019, 2025; Wang *et al*., 2019; Gao *et al*., 2023) [11, 29, 31-35, 38] and the well-known occurrence of apomixis (Clark & Jasieniuk 2012; Sochor *et al*., 2015, 2022; Huang *et al*. 2023; Guo *et al*., 2024) [8, 12, 13, 28, 30]. Despite these taxonomic complexities, *Rubus* includes many species of significant economic importance, particularly raspberries and blackberries, which are cultivated worldwide for their edible fruits (Meng *et al*., 2022; Bhatt *et al*. 2023; Buczyński *et al*. 2024; Gevrenova *et al*. 2024; Lu *et al*. 2024) [4, 5, 12, 20, 21].

A review of the taxonomic literature on *Rubus* in France (Belhacène & Mercier 2023) [3] and Poland (Wolanin *et al*. 2025) [41] revealed that *Rubus magurensis* Wolanin, M. Nobis & Oklej. is an illegitimate later homonym of *R. magurensis* Nyár? Furthermore, the replacement names *Rubus amelanchierifolius* D.P. Mercier & Belhacène and *R. cailholii* Belhacène were not validly published because they lack a full and direct reference to the replaced synonym, the cited name having been published later and merely including a reference to the earlier name. Similarly, the new combination *R. glabrescens* (Sudre) D.P. Mercier & Belhacène was not validly published as the cited publication is not the place of valid publication of the basionym; rather, the basionym was validly published earlier, and the cited work only refers to that earlier publication. Accordingly, these names are validated here in accordance with the requirements of the Madrid Code of the ICN (Turland *et al*. 2025) [37].

Nomenclature

***Rubus* amelanchierifolius D.P. Mercier & Belhacène ex Kottaim., nom. nov.**
Replaced synonym: *Rubus hebecaulis* Sudre var. *oblongifolius* Sudre in Excurs. Batol: 64. 1900.
Rubus amelanchierifolius D.P. Mercier & Belhacène, Carnets Bot. 139: 4. 2023, *nom. inval*.

Distribution: France. Endemic.

***Rubus* cailholii Belhacène ex Kottaim. & Y. Mahesh, nom. nov.**
Replaced synonym: *Rubus obscurus* var. *medioximus* Sudre in Compt. Rend. Congr. Soc. Savantes Paris Dépt., Sec. Sci. 13: 215. 1908 (publ. 1909).
Rubus cailholii Belhacène, Carnets Bot. 139: 7. 2023, *nom. inval.*

Distribution: France. Endemic.

***Rubus* glabrescens (Sudre) D.P. Mercier & Belhacène ex Kottaim., comb. nov.**
Basionym: *Rubus furvus* var. *glabrescens* Sudre in Excurs. Batol.: 156. 1902.
Rubus glabrescens (Sudre) D.P. Mercier & Belhacène, Carnets Bot. 139: 11. 2023, *nom. inval.*

Distribution: France. Endemic.

***Rubus* jerzyi Kottaim. & Y. Mahesh, nom. nov.**
Replaced synonym: *Rubus magurensis* Wolanin, M. Nobis & Oklej., Forests 16(8)-1286: 2. 2025, *nom. illeg.*, non *Rubus magurensis* Nyár., Fl. Republ. Popul. Român. 4: 908. 1956.

Etymology: Named in honour of Jerzy Zieliński in recognition of his significant contributions to the taxonomy and understanding of the genus *Rubus* in Poland

Distribution: Poland. Endemic.

Acknowledgements
We sincerely express my gratitude to Dr. Kanad Das, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata and Dr, N. Odyuo, Head of Office, Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong for providing the necessary research facilities and constant encouragement.

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