VALIDATION OF THE GENERIC NAME OLMECA AND ITS TWO SPECIES

(POACEAE: BAMBUSOIDEAE)

Thomas R. Soderstrom
Department of Botany
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

This past year I reported on the discovery of a new and unusual bamboo genus in Mexico, which I named Olmeca, in honor of the Olmec Indians who once roamed the forests where this bamboo grows in Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Chiapas. So far the genus is known only from two species, both of which bear fleshy fruits, a feature previously unknown in any bamboo of the New World. The generic name was published with full Latin descriptions for all taxa in the following paper: Soderstrom, T. R. Olmeca, a new genus of Mexican bamboos with fleshy fruits. Amer. J. Bot. 68: 1361-1373. 1981.

Unfortunately, I failed to indicate the type species of the genus, thus making invalid not only the generic name (Art. 37) but that of both species names (Art. 43) as well. The following is meant to correct that oversight and validate in the present publication (under Art. 45.1) the names involved.

Olmeca Soderstrom, gen. nov. (Latin description: Amer. J. Bot. 68: 1362. 1981.)

T.: Olmeca reflexa Soderstrom.

- Olmeca reflexa Soderstrom, sp. nov. (Latin description and typification: Amer. J. Bot. 68: 1369-1371. 1981.)
 Holotype (US): Mexico. Chiapas: Mun. Ocozocoautla de Espinosa, 45 km N of Ocozocoautla, steep ravines with Lower Montane Rain Forest, elev. 550 m, 31 January 1973, D. E. Breedlove 32844. Isotype: DS.
- Olmeca recta Soderstrom, sp. nov. (Latin description and typification: Amer. J. Bot. 68: 1365-1367. 1981.)
 Holotype (US): Mexico. Veracruz, between Catamaco and Zontecomapan, on road to Monte Pio. Wet slopes above Zontecomapan, alt. ca. 200 m, 11 April 1952, H. E. Moore, Jr., and Max Cetto 6268. Isotype: BH.