



## *Hypolytrum pahiense*, a new name for the illegitimate *Hypolytrum costatum* (Cyperaceae) from Liberia

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The genus *Hypolytrum* Rich. ex Pers. (Cyperaceae) is comprised of ca. 50 species (Nelmes 1955) distributed throughout the tropics and subtropics. The genus is most easily confused with *Mapania* Aubl., as both genera can have large basal strap-like leaves and a globose capitate inflorescence. *Hypolytrum* is usually distinguished by having 2 floral bracts within a spicoid compared with 4–6 floral bracts in *Mapania* (Simpson 1992). In *Hypolytrum* these floral bracts are initially fused together but then rupture to expose the maturing achene (Nelmes 1955).

In 1855, Steudel described a species of *Hypolytrum* in his *Synopsis Plantarum Glumacearum*, based on a collection by Hostmann in Surinam in 1842. He named it *H. costatum* Hochst. ex Steud. and stated that he was unsure whether or not it was the same as *H. amplum* Poeppig et Kunth, a species first published by Kunth (1837). More than a century later Koyama (1970), in his revision of American *Hypolytrum*, sunk *H. costatum* into synonymy under *H. amplum* citing Hostmann's collection and designated the holotype of *H. costatum* at P.

Thwaites (1864) in his account of the indigenous plants of Ceylon described what he believed to be a new species of *Hypolytrum* based on a single incomplete specimen, which he collected at an unknown locality in Ceylon. Thwaites named it *H. costatum* presumably based on the costate surface of the achene. However he was clearly unaware of Steudel's earlier use of the name and under Article 53.1 of the ICBN, *H. costatum* Thwaites is illegitimate. This name has subsequently been reduced to synonymy firstly by Kurz (1869) who moved this species into *Scirpodendron costatum*, and then by Merrill (1914) who transferred it to *S. ghaeri*.

Nelmes (1955) published a revision of the African species of *Hypolytrum*. He recognised seventeen species across the whole of Africa, six of which—including *H. costatum*—he described as new. This new species was based on a single collection by J.T. Baldwin Jr. collected in 1947 in Liberia and is still only known from this single collection. Like Thwaites before him Nelmes used the strongly costate surface texture of the nutlet as a distinguishing character commenting at the end of the protologue 'This plant is remarkable for the surface of its achene wholly unlike those of any other species'. A new name is provided here for *H. costatum* Nelmes.

### *Hypolytrum pahiense* Xanthos *nom. nov.*

Synonym: *Hypolytrum costatum* Nelmes(1955: 74) *nom. illeg.* later homonym of *Hypolytrum costatum* Thwaites (1864: 346) and *Hypolytrum costatum* Hochst. ex Steud. (1855: 133). Type:—LIBERIA. Eastern Province (Webo District), Nyaake (Webo), top of Pah Mountain, 21 June 1947, *J.T. Baldwin Jr. 6072* (holotype K! [K000244859]; isotypes K! [K000244860], MO [MO-1620415], NY [NY00431781]).

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