



## Notes on Early Land Plants Today. 73. Genera of Lejeuneaceae established in the period 1884–1893: dates of validation and implications

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### Abstract

Dates of validation of generic names initially published as names in subgenera or sections of *Lejeunea* (mainly by Spruce) in the period 1884–1893 are established. Consequences for the dates of validations of specific names are analysed. Names not validly published (both generic and specific names) in this period are also identified. A few species names must be changed from those in common use today and two new combinations, *Rectolejeunea versifolia* and *Lejeunea hyalina*, become necessary.

### Introduction

Taxonomic recognition of well-defined segregates within the broadly defined genus *Lejeunea* Libert (1820: 373) began in large part with the monumental treatment of the liverworts of the Amazon and Andes by Spruce (1884). In that work he divided the genus into 38 subgenera distributed between two groups, the Holostipae and the Schizostipae, applying to them names formed by the addition of a descriptive prefix hyphenated to the generic name *Lejeunea*. In an epithet, e.g. in the name of a subgenus, the inclusion of the hyphen is now treated as an error to be corrected by deletion of the hyphen (ICN [Melbourne Code] Art. 60.9, McNeill *et al.* 2012). One additional subgenus, *Lejeunea* subg. *Anomalolejeunea*, was named by Spruce in Pearson (1887). In addition, Stephani (1890a: 19) described a further “Gruppe” that he called “*Cauda-Lejeunea*” and treated at a rank commensurate with Spruce’s subgenera. However, he failed explicitly to connect “*Cauda-Lejeunea*” with a generic name (*cf.* ICN Art. 35.2) so this is not a validly published name of a generic subdivision. All 39 subgenera named by Spruce, as well as Stephani’s “*Caudalejeunea*” and Spruce’s “§ 3. *Strepsi-Lejeunea*”, one of three groups prefixed by ‘§’ and subordinate to *Lejeunea* subg. *Harpa-Lejeunea* (Spruce 1884: 168), but listed as a subgenus on p. 585 and its two species presented in subgeneric form on p. 179 (e.g. “*Strepsi-Lejeunea inflexa*”) of Spruce (1884) were recognized as genera by subsequent authors and have since been typified. However, who should be credited with the first publication of each of these as generic names and when these names, as well as those of certain species, were validly published, has been equivocal for more than a century.

Schiffner (1893b) treated 31 of Spruce’s explicit *Lejeunea* subgenera, his *Lejeunea* ‘§ *Strepsi-Lejeunea*’ and *Caudalejeunea* that he attributed to Stephani as distinct genera and has generally been regarded as the author of each (see Grolle 1983). He considered *Lejeunea* subg. *Microlejeunea* (‘*Micro-Lejeunea*’) to be a subgenus of *Eulejeunea*. He treated the subgenera that Spruce referred to as *Bryo-Lejeunea*, *Omphalo-Lejeunea*, *Ptycho-Lejeunea*, *Thysano-Lejeunea* and *Homalo-Lejeunea* under their original (pre-Sprucean) names—i.e., *Bryopteris*, *Omphalanthus*, *Ptychanthus*, *Thysananthus* and *Marchesinia*, respectively. These five Sprucean subgenera along with *L.* subg. *Dendrolejeunea* (‘*Dendro-Lejeunea*’) and *L.* subg. *Potamolejeunea* (‘*Potamo-Lejeunea*’) were later recognized at the generic rank by Lacouture (1908). Bonner *et al.* (1961) argued that Stephani should be considered the author for 32