

## Lectotypification of the name *Cucumis colocynthis* L. (Cucurbitaceae : Benincaseae)

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### Abstract

Lectotype for the Linnaean name *Cucumis colocynthis* has been designated. The protologue of the name and relevant literature have been evaluated. An illustration by Mattioli in *De Plantis Epitome Utilissima* has been assigned as lectotype for the taxon.

**Key words:** Lectotype; Linnaeus; *Cucumis*

### INTRODUCTION

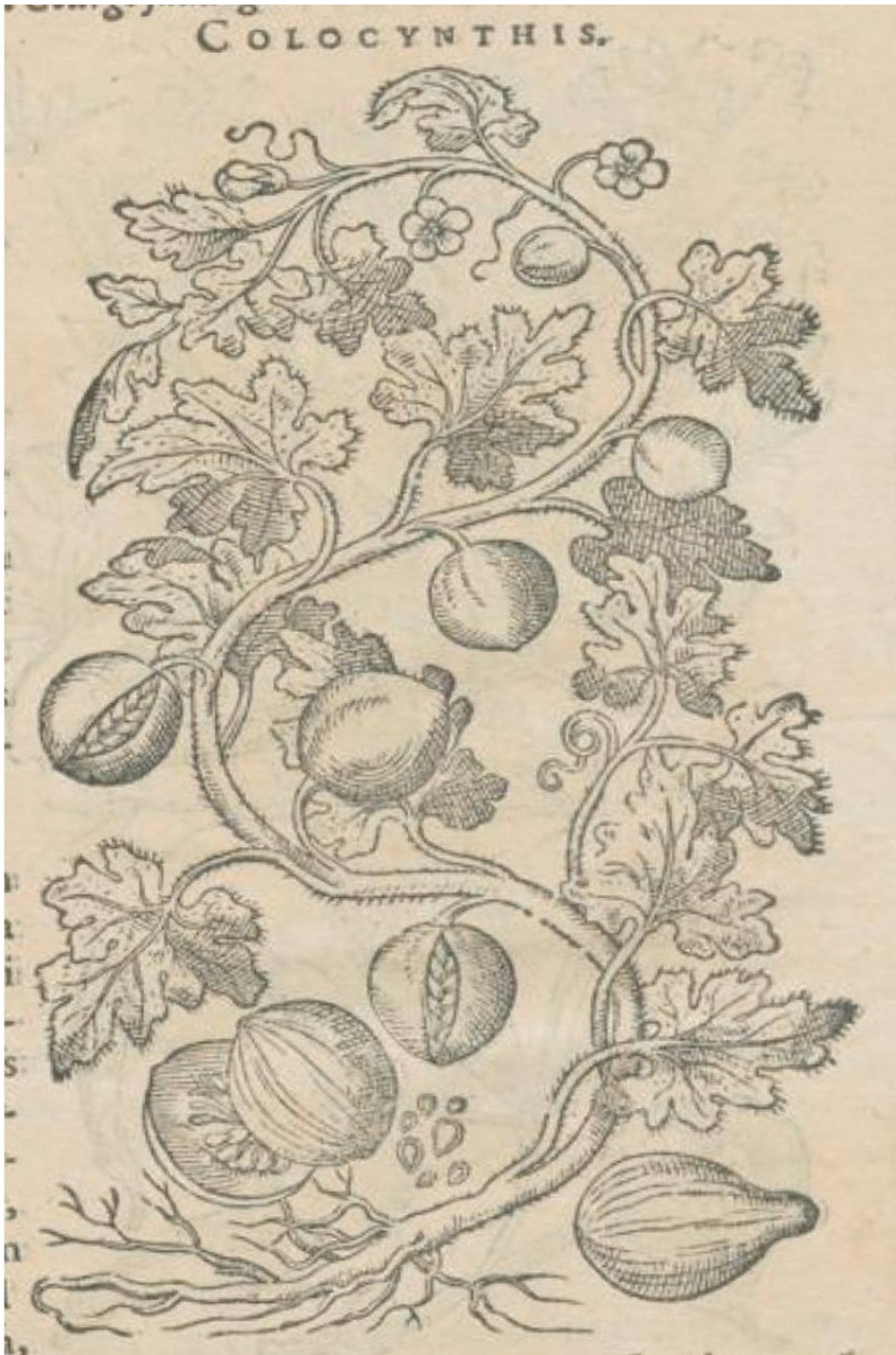
The genus *Citrullus* Schrader comprises of approximately seven species distributed in arid and semi-arid tropics of India, Africa and Australia (Schaefer & Renner 2011; Chomicki & Renner 2015). It includes a number of cultivated taxa, known for their economic and medicinal uses (Renner & al. 2017). *Cucumis colocynthis* L. is basionym of *Citrullus colocynthis* (L.) Schrad., commonly called Colocynth or Bitter Apple and is reported from Northern Africa (Dane & al. 2007; Chomicki & Renner 2015). It is commonly found in semi-deserts and xeric bushlands (Schaefer & Renner 2011). In the present communication, we have designated a lectotype for *Cucumis colocynthis* based on the publication of Linnaeus.

The Protologue of *Citrullus colocynthis* (1838: 414) consists of a synonym *Cucumis colocynthis* followed by a diagnosis but no specimen has been cited under the species. Even in the protologue of *Cucumis colocynthis*, Linnaeus did not cite any specimen and therefore all uncited specimens and illustrations will have equal priority in designating lectotype (Art. 9.12 of the *ICN*, McNeill & al. 2012).

Further, Linnaeus mentioned five citations to previous works in the protologue of *Cucumis colocynthis*: *Hortus upsaliensis* (Linnaeus 1748: 293), *Materia medica* (Linnaeus 1749: 157), *Florae leydensis prodromus* (Royen 1740: 263), *Pinax Theatri botanici* (Bauhin 1671: 313) and *De plantis epitome utilissima* (Mattioli 1586: 982).

No specimen was cited by Linnaeus, Royen or Bauhin for the species in their works. However, Mattioli (1586: 982) provided an illustration (Figure 1) that matches the Linnaean diagnosis. This is the same element cited by Jarvis (2007: 464) as representing original material.

As Linnaeus did not cite any specimen, we searched for original material of *Cucumis colocynthis* from the collections deposited at LINN herbarium. Three sheets of *C. colocynthis* are present there (sheet no. 1152.1, 1152.2 and 1152.3, images available at: <http://linnean-online.org/11812/>) but none of those were found to be the original material. In



**Figure 1.** Lectotype of *Cucumis colocynthis* L.: Illustration in Mattioli's *De plantis epitome utilissima* (1586: 982).

the earlier attempt to provide type for the Linnaean Plant names, Jeffrey (1977) had incorrectly treated 1152.1 (LINN) as the type of the taxon. Since, these collections lack annotation in *Species Plantarum* number (i.e. '1') and were a post-1753 addition to the herbarium and therefore, cannot be considered as the original material for the name (Renner & Pandey 2013).

In other Linnaean and Linnaean-linked herbaria no original material could be traced for *Cucumis colocyntis*. Mattioli's illustration is the only original material and thus, we designated it here as lectotype for *Cucumis colocyntis* which supersedes the earlier lectotype designated by Jeffrey (1977: 676).

***Cucumis colocyntis* L., Sp. Pl.: 1011. 1753**

**Lectotype (designated here):** [illustration] in Mattioli, Pl. Epit.: 982, 1586. – For an image of the lectotype, see Figure 1.

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