



## Transferring *Oncidium novaesae* to *Gomesa* (Orchidaceae) and notes on *Gomesa doeringii*

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### Abstract

The study of the Augusto Ruschi type materials currently deposited in the Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão, in Santa Teresa, Espírito Santo State, Brazil, makes it possible to recognise a historically neglected, but validly published species, *Oncidium novaesae*, which is here transferred to *Gomesa*, with designation of a lectotype and indication of synonymy. In addition, a superfluous combination in *Gomesa* is identified.

**Key words:** *Gomesa*, *Oncidium*, Atlantic Forest, Brazil

### Introduction

The genus *Gomesa* R.Br. originally comprised 11 endemic species from Brazil (Pabst & Dungs 1977). However, after molecular phylogenetic analyses based on nuclear and plastid DNA, this number was much increased to encompass most of the Brazilian species previously included in *Oncidium* Sw. (Chase *et al.* 2009), thus making a total of 115 *Gomesa* species. The genus *Gomesa* in this circumscription is widespread in the Neotropics.

Most of the nomenclatural errors observed when transferring species epithets to *Gomesa* (Chase *et al.* 2009) were corrected by Chase (2009), but an omission was only recently detected, since *Oncidium novaesae* Ruschi (1970a), a validly published species, was not considered in any later orchid literature (e.g. Pabst & Dungs 1977, Chase *et al.* 2009), except for two citations by the author of the name (Ruschi 1970b, 1986).

The recognition of *O. novaesae* as a valid but historically neglected taxon was only possible on the basis of the study of the Augusto Ruschi type material currently deposited in the Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão, in Santa Teresa, Espírito Santo State, Brazil. This study also revealed the need for lectotypification of the species and allowed the establishment of recognition of new synonyms. In addition, it was shown that Chase *et al.* (2009) proposed a superfluous new combination for *Theodorea doeringii* Hoehne (1942) in *Gomesa*, because it had previously been transferred to that genus by Pabst (1967) as *G. doeringii* (Hoehne) Pabst.

### *Gomesa novaesae* (Ruschi) Fraga & A.P.Fontana, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Oncidium novaesae* Ruschi, Bol. Mus. Biol. Prof. Mello Leitão, Série Botânica 51: 3. 1970. Type: BRAZIL. Espírito Santo: Santa Teresa, Estação Biológica do Museu Nacional, fl. 4 May 1951, A. Ruschi *s.n.*, no. 1080, (holotype MBML, destroyed). Lectotype (here designated): Maria Stella Novaes' original drawing, in the personal

archives of Augusto Ruschi deposited in the Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão and reproduced in Ruschi, 1970b: 15, t. 30 and Ruschi, 1986: 240.

**Synonyms:**—*Oncidium zappii* Pabst (1976: 155), *Anettea zappii* (Pabst) Szlach. & Mytnik. (2006: 50), *Brasilidium zappii* (Pabst) Campacci (2006: 79), *Gomesa zappii* (Pabst) M.W.Chase & N.H.Williams (in: Chase *et al.* 2009: 398). Holotype: BRAZIL. Espírito Santo: Near Venda Nova, fl. 26 May 1976, *Zappi* 48, (HB!), *syn. nov.*



**FIGURE 1.** Reproduction of the Maria Stella Novaes' original drawing (Lectotype), deposited in the Archive Augusto Ruschi at the Museum of Biology Prof. Mello Leitão.

The material used by Ruschi in the description of *G. novaesae* was preserved in alcohol and deposited in the Herbarium of Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão (spirit collection). We had the opportunity to examine it before it was tragically destroyed by floods that occurred on December 18th, 2000. These completely ruined part of the important botanical collection of the Museum. The type specimen, now lost as a result, consisted only of fixed flowers and a label with a record of its number (i.e. 1080).

Although the type material was destroyed, the original description and illustration (Ruschi 1970a, 1970b) clearly provide morphological data which allow the recognition of *Oncidium zappii* Pabst (Pabst 1976), transferred to *Gomesa* by Chase *et al.* (2009), as identical to *G. novaesae*. Thus the binomials *O. zappii* and *G.*

*zappii* are here treated as new synonyms of *G. novaesae* following the rule of priority, Art. 11.4 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (McNeill *et al.* 2006). The authors of both these new synonyms characterized *O. zappii*/*G. zappii* by the lip with a brown-purplish disk, a feature also found in *G. novaesae*.

Due to the destruction of the type material and the absence of any other specimens cited in the protologue of *O. novaesae*, the original illustration by the artist Maria Stella de Novaes, which is sufficient for identification of this taxon, is designated here as lectotype.

***Gomesa doeringii*** (Hoehne) Pabst (1967: 165), *Orquídea (Niteroi)* 29: 165.

**Synonyms:**—*Theodorea doeringii* Hoehne (1942: 86); *Hellerorchis doeringii* (Hoehne) A.D.Hawkes (1959: 275); *Rodriguesia doeringii* (Hoehne) Pabst (1975: 8); *Gomesa doeringii* (Hoehne) M.W.Chase & N.H.Williams (in: Chase *et al.* 2009: 396), *comb. superfl.*

*Theodorea doeringii* was originally described by Hoehne (1942), and 25 years later it was transferred to *Gomesa* by Pabst (1967), as *G. doeringii*. That combination was not included in Chase *et al.* (2009), who proposed a superfluous new combination, which is here be included in the synonymy of the taxon.

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