

Validation of the Name *Butia odorata*

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Butia odorata has had a convoluted journey to becoming a valid name.

Butia odorata (Barb. Rodr.) Noblick, **comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Cocos odorata* Barb. Rodr., Pl. Jard. Rio de Janeiro 1: 11, t. 4a, 5c. 1891.

The true *Butia capitata* was first described and named by Martius as *Cocos capitata* in 1826. It was discovered in the state of Minas Gerais by Martius near the town of Montes Claros and is a *cerrado*-loving palm endemic to the central *planalto* region of Brazil. It is a very different palm from the more robust coastal plane or *restinga*-loving "*Butia capitata*" of Uruguay (Fig. 1) and Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Barbosa Rodrigues (1891, 1903) described and named the southern one as *Cocos odorata* and wrote that it inhabited fields in Rio Grande do Sul and on the Isla de los Padres near the Rio Cebollatí [Lagoa Mirim], Uruguay. Beccari (1916) half-heartedly accepted Barbosa Rodrigues' name when he created *Butia capitata* var. *odorata* (Barb. Rodr.) Becc. Glassman (1979) synonymized both of these names under *Butia capitata* expressing a need for further study. Henderson (1999), reiterating my own view, wrote that "They [the southern population] should perhaps be recognized as a separate species, in which case *Butia odorata* would be the correct name (Larry Noblick, pers. comm.)." Since then, others have supported, but failed to transfer *Cocos odorata* to *Butia odorata*. In his PhD thesis, Marcato (2004) created the name *Butia odorata* (Barb. Rodr.) Noblick ex Marcato, but he never published his thesis nor the name. Lorenzi et al. (2004) published the name *Butia odorata* (Barb. Rodr.) Noblick & Pirani, but it lacked a

proper basionym reference, and the transfer failed. Finally, Lorenzi et al. (2010) published *Butia odorata* Noblick & Lorenzi, but it had an erroneous basionym reference that rendered the name illegitimate. Therefore, let the above transfer be considered the final, legal and official transfer of *Cocos odorata* Barb. Rodr. to *Butia*, with its correct basionym reference.

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1. The robust *Butia odorata* growing near Rocha close to Castillos, Uruguay.

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