

## PROPOSALS TO CONSERVE OR REJECT

**(1708) Proposal to conserve the name *Perenniporia* against *Physisporus* with a conserved type (*Basidiomycota*)**Cory Decock<sup>1</sup> & Joost A. Stalpers<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup> *Mycothèque de l'Université catholique de Louvain (MUCL), Place Croix du Sud 3, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. decock@mbla.ulc.ac.be (author for correspondence)*<sup>2</sup> *Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS) Uppsalalaan 8, 3584 CT Utrecht, The Netherlands*(1708) *Perenniporia* Murrill in *Mycologia* 34: 595. 1942, *nom. cons. prop.*Typus: *Perenniporia medulla-panis* (Jacq. : Fr.) Murrill (*Boletus medulla-panis* Jacq.), *typ. cons. prop.*(≡) *Physisporus* Chevall., *Fl. gén. Envir. Paris*: 261. 1826, *nom. rej. prop.*

Decock & Stalpers (*Taxon* 55: in press) discuss the current taxonomic situation in *Perenniporia* and the subsequent nomenclatural problems in detail. The current lectotype of *Perenniporia*, *Polyporus unitus* Pers., long considered to be identical with *Boletus medulla-panis* Jacq., is neither conspecific nor congeneric with the latter. Hence the current, well-known concept of *Perenniporia*, developed around *Perenniporia medulla-panis* (Jacq. : Fr.) Donk, does not include the actual type of the generic name.

For a different reason, some recent authors have adopted the name *Poria* Pers. *sensu stricto* typified by *Boletus medulla-panis* Jacq. for *Perenniporia* auctt. at the generic level. Historically, *Poria* Pers. (*Neues Mag. Bot.* 1: 109, 1794) was used for all resupinate polypores. Gradually new genera were proposed for segregate taxa, and Murrill (*Mycologia* 12: 47, 1920) restricted *Poria* to the whitish species, with *Poria medulla-panis* (Jacq. : Fr.) Pers. as the type. Remarkably, Murrill's description of *Poria medulla-panis* included the word "perennial". Later Murrill (*Mycologia* 34: 595. 1942) restricted *Poria* to the annual species, and *Perenniporia* was proposed for the perennial species, with *P. unita* (Pers.) Murrill and *P. nigrescens* (Bres.) Murrill as included species. Bridge Cooke (*The genera of homobasidiomycetes*. USDA, Div. Mycol. & Disease Survey, Special Publ. No. 3: 71, 1953) selected *Polyporus unitus* (Persoon, *Mycol. Eur.* 2: 93, 1825) as the type of *Perenniporia*. Since Donk (*Meded. Bot. Mus. Herb. Rijksuniv. Utrecht* 9: 234, 1933), this name has generally been accepted as a synonym of *Perenniporia medulla-panis* (Jacq. : Fr.) Donk, which was considered the correct name of the species that included the generitype, leading to the present dilemma. When the names *Pol. unitus* and *P. medulla-panis* were considered to be synonymous, *Perenniporia* appeared no longer to be a segregate from, but a synonym of *Poria* Pers., the two names seemingly being based on types that were conspecific. This is now found to be mistaken, the type of *Pol. unitus* being an unidentifiable specimen but one that is

certainly not referable to any species of *Perenniporia* as currently understood (Decock & Stalpers, l.c.).

Donk (*Persoonia* 5: 50–67. 1967) realized that *Poria* at that time was an artificial genus, containing many resupinate polypores of unknown affinity. He proposed to accept the name *Perenniporia* for the species related to the type of *Poria* (i.e., *P. medulla-panis*) and "to retain *Poria* arbitrarily for a residual genus of ever-dwindling, but still considerable size, irrespective of the correct taxonomic position of the type species." He left open the possibility that *Poria* might again be taken up. This was done by Ginns (*Mycotaxon* 21: 325. 1984), but by then the nomenclatorial situation had drastically changed.

In 1983 the starting point date for the fungi changed from 1821 to 1753, with considerable consequences for the status of *Poria* Pers., which in 1821 was accepted by S. F. Gray (*Nat. Arrang. Br. Pl.*), but was not sanctioned by Fries (*Syst. Mycol.*). The name is, therefore, currently illegitimate as it is a later homonym of *Poria* Adanson (*Familles des Plantes*. Vol. 2, Paris. 1763). The latter is based on material that is not identifiable to species but is undoubtedly referable to a different genus. Hence, *Poria* Pers. is not available for *Perenniporia* as that name is currently applied.

The name *Physisporus* Chev. (1826, *Fl. gén. Envir. Paris*: 261), either a *nom. nov.* for *Poria* Pers., or homotypic with it by virtue of the first effective lectotypification by Donk (in *Persoonia* 1: 256–257. 1960) (see Decock & Stalpers, l.c.) is available, but is not in current usage. Adoption of this long disused name would require about 80 new combinations, and the discarding of the generic name *Perenniporia* which is well known in the literature. Nomenclatorial stability can be achieved in one of two ways: conservation of *Poria* Pers. against *Poria* Adanson or conservation of *Perenniporia* Murrill against *Physisporus* and with a conserved type, *Boletus medulla-panis*. Although the first action has been proposed twice previously (cf. "Proposals to Conserve and/or Reject Plant Names", <http://persoon.si.edu/codes/props/index.cfm>), it would still require over 40 new combinations, and offers no advantages over the second possibility for which no new combinations are required. Additionally, conservation of *Poria* carries the disadvantage of adding names to a previous "waste basket" generic name. Hence we propose to conserve *Perenniporia* Murrill against *Physisporus* Chev., and to conserve it with *Boletus medulla-panis* Jacq. : Fr. as its type.