

*Notes on the Genus Heinekenia (Fabaceae)  
from the Canary Islands*

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**Resumen**

Se propone la revalidación del género **Heinekenia** Webb ex Christ (Fabaceae), grupo natural dentro del complejo de **Lotus** L., s. lat. y que consiste en dos endémicos tinerfeños. Se explica algunas de las confusiones nomenclatóricas y se presenta las siguientes combinaciones nuevas: **Heinekenia berthelotii** (Masf.) Kunkel, y **H. maculata** (Breitf.) Kunkel.

While revising some of the many different taxa of Canarian endemics, my interest was renewed by the recently described *Lotus maculatus* (Breitfeld 1973). The species has been known in cultivation for some years. *Lotus maculatus*, together with the narrowly related *L. peliorhynchus*, forms a somewhat aberrant group within the otherwise rather homogenous genus *Lotus*.

Not too happy about the position of these two species I asked Dr. William T. Stearn, eminent botanist and Senior Principal Scientific Officer of the British Museum (Natural History), London, for his advice. Dr. Stearn has kindly examined the nomenclature situation regarding the possible use of the name *Heinekenia* for the above mentioned group and has provided the following memorandum:

“In the *Phytographia Canariensis* 2: 86 (1842) Webb and Berthelot published *Lotus* sect. *Heinekenia* dedicated to Webb's friend in Madeira, Carl Heineken; this included three species but *Lotus arabicus* L. is the obvious lectotype, as Bentham indicated in Bentham and Hooker, *Genera Planta-*

rum 1: 491 (1865). Later Bourgeau provided Webb with flowering specimens of the then unnamed endemic Tenerife species now commonly known as *Lotus peliorhynchus* which he (Bourgeau) had collected in 1846. This species is not recorded in the *Phytographia Canariensis* (1836-50). Webb regarded so remarkable a plant as representing both a new species and a new genus which, he thought, could also commemorate Heineken and he named it *Heinekenia peliorhyncha*. Webb himself, who died in 1854, never published this name but Bourgeau distributed specimens under it in his *Plantae Canarienses* 865 (gathered in 1846) and 1319 (gathered by H. de la Perraudière at the same place in 1855). These labels give the name as "Webb mss." but provide no description to validate it. The epithet *peliorhyncha* presumably means "having a beak as dark as congealed blood" and refers to the darker coloured keel of the corolla. The Rev. R.T. Lowe also saw this plant and named it *Pedrosia berthelotii* but he likewise never published the name. The next two authors to consider the species placed it in *Lotus*. It was independently described as *Lotus berthelotti* by Masferrer in 1881 and as *Lotus peliorhynchus* by J. D. Hooker in 1884.

"In 1887 Hermann Christ, aware of Masferrer's publication but not Hooker's, took up Webb's manuscript name *Heinekenia peliorhyncha*, citing *Lotus berthelotii* Masf. as a synonym. Christ accepted *Heinekenia* as a genus distinct from *Lotus*, provided a generic diagnosis based on *Lotus berthelotii*, stated that this was its only species and expressly excluded *Lotus* sect. *Heinekenia*. The generic name *Heinekenia* Webb ex Christ, with *L. berthelotii* as type, and the sectional name *Lotus* sect. *Heinekenia* Webb & Berth., with *L. arabicus* as lectotype, are thus independent of one another, although commemorating the same individual, and can thus legitimately co-exist since they are based on different types and refer to taxa of different non-conflicting rank.

"Unfortunately when Brand monographed the genus *Lotus* in 1898 he confused its sectional name *Heinekenia* (based on Webb's genus) to a new section containing only *L.*

*berthelotii*, for which he should have coined a new name, and instead he unnecessarily gave a new name *Erythrolotus* to the section containing *L. arabicus*, for which he should have used the existing sectional name *Heinekenia* of Webb & Berthelot. By this procedure he created two illegitimate and hence untenable sectional names.”

Accepting Dr. Stearn's opinion, and with his permission (letter of 10 Sept. 1974) to publish the text as given above, I therefore propose to re-establish the genus *Heinekenia* sensu Webb ex Christ as described by H. Christ (1887):

Petalis etiam vexillo longe acuminatis, vexillo lincari subfo-  
liaceo, carina caeteris petalis multo longiore rostrata, filamentis I  
libero 9 basi connatis quorum 4 brevioribus, 5 longioribus, his sub  
antheram urceolato - dilatatis — in Pedrosiis solummodo dilata-  
tis — inflorescentiis fasciculatis, pedunculis capituli floralis foliis  
brevioribus, foliolis sessilibus stipulisque conformibus uninerviis  
filiformibus subverticillatis, corolla purpurea.

Caetera *Loti*. Floram habitus Clianthi.

The genus *Lotus* s. lat. as occurring in the Canary Is-  
lands, therefore might be divided as follows:

*LOTUS* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 773 (1753), Gen. Pl. 5th ed. 338 (1754).

Lectotype: *L. corniculatus* L.

Presented in the Canary Islands by 18 to 20 species of  
which 11 or 12 are considered as endemics, and

*HEINEKENIA* Webb ex Christ in Engler, Bot. Jahrb. 9: 124  
(1887).

Type: *Lotus berthelotii* Masf. (*L. peliorhynchus* Hook. f.)

*Lotus* subg. *Pedrosia* sect. *Heinekenia* (Webb. ex Christ)

Brand in Engler, Bot. Jahrb. 25: 199 (1898); non Webb  
& Berth. (1842).

The two species concerned are:

1 ***Heinekenia berthelotii*** (Masf) Kunkel, **comb nov.**

*Lotus berthelotii* Masferrer in Anal. Soc. Esp. Hist.  
Nat. 10: 160 (1881), reimpr. in Masferrer, Recuer-  
dos Bot. Tenerife 81 (1881).

*Lotus peliorhynchus* Hook. f. in Curtis, Bot. Mag. 110: t.6733 (1884).

*Heinekenia peliorhyncha* Webb ex Christ in Engl., Bot. Jahrb. 9: 124 (1887).

2. **Heinekenia maculata** (Breitf., Kunke<sup>1</sup>), **comb. nov.**

*Lotus maculatus* Breitfeld, Cuad. Bot. Canar. 17: 27 (1973).

Both species of *Heinekenia* are apparently endemic in Tenerife and are in urgent need of protection in their natural localities. "In addition to the characters noted by Breitfeld the two species differ in the upper lip of the calyx, which is upcurved in *maculatus* and almost straight in *berthelotii*" (W. T. Stearn).

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