

A NEW COMBINATION IN FIMBRISTYLIS (CYPERACEAE)

J. H. KERN

Fimbristylis ovata (Burm. f.) Kern, *comb. nov.* — *Carex ovata* Burm. f., Fl. Ind. (1768) 194; Kük., Pfl. Reich, Heft 38 (1909) 103. — *Cyperus monostachyos* L., Mant. 2 (1771) 180. — *Abildgaardia monostachya* (L.) Vahl, En. Plant. 2 (1806) 296. — *Fimbristylis monostachya* (L.) Hassk., Pl. Jav. Rar. (1848) 61. — *Iriha monostachya* (L.) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 2 (1891) 751.

Burman's description of his *Carex ovata* is very short: 'Spica terminali ovata feminea. Missa ex Java'. Raymond, Mém. Jard. Bot. Montréal no 23 (1959) 78, suggested that the neglected name might be the correct one for *Carex tricephala* Boeck. (1875), the only *Carex* species of the area that would fit Burman's description. To me this supposition seemed unlikely, as *Carex tricephala* is a very rare species not known to occur in Java. Merrill, Philip. J. Sc. 19 (1921) 341, already suspected that Burman's plant does not belong in *Carex*, but perhaps in *Eleocharis* or possibly in *Fimbristylis*.

The type specimen of *Carex ovata* is preserved in the Geneva Herbarium. In Burman's handwriting the sheet bears the annotation: 'ex Java. Carex ovata. Gramen cyperoides. Pluken. Am. alt. p. 113. Pluken. Tab. 916 Fig. 1.' The plant is not a *Carex* at all, but belongs to a pantropical *Fimbristylis* species very common in Java and hitherto generally known as *Fimbristylis monostachya* (L.) Hassk.

Linné's basionym *Cyperus monostachyos* dates from 1771, Burman's name from 1768, so that unfortunately again the well-known name of a common *Cyperaceae* has to be replaced by a new combination.