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Acta Botanica Malacitana 51 (2026) 24201
DOI: https://doi.org/10.24310/abm.51.2026.24201

Note

On *Calamagrostis* Adans. and the threat of *Arundo* L. (Gramineae) in Adanson's *Familles des Plantes* (1763)

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Received: 2 June 2026. **Accepted:** 22 July 2026. **Published:** 24 July 2026

Edited by: Marta Recio Criado

Abstract

The treatment of *Calamagrostis* (as "*Kalamagrostis*") and *Arundo* in *Familles des Plantes* (1763) by Michel Adanson is evaluated under Art. 52 of the *International Code of Nomenclature* (Madrid Code). Although *Arundo* L. is listed under *Kalamagrostis* in the index to Adanson's work, the author does not provide anywhere in the text any Linnaean binomial of *Arundo* associated with *Calamagrostis*. By contrast, Adanson's citation of an illustration by Morison under *Arundo* establishes an explicit connection with a particular Linnaean name, demonstrating that not all elements of *Arundo* were subsumed under *Calamagrostis*. This evidence indicates that *Calamagrostis* Adans. was not nomenclaturally superfluous at the time of publication and should therefore be treated as a legitimate name.

Keywords: International Code of Nomenclature, illegitimate name, Madrid Code, nomenclaturally superfluous name, synonym.

Resumen

Sobre Calamagrostis Adans. y el tratamiento de Arundo L. en Familles des Plantes (1763) de Michel Adanson

El tratamiento de Calamagrostis (como "Kalamagrostis") y Arundo en Familles des Plantes (1763) de Michel Adanson se evalúa conforme al Art. 52 del Código Internacional de Nomenclatura (Código de Madrid). Aunque Arundo L. figura bajo Kalamagrostis en el índice de la obra de Adanson, el autor no proporciona en ninguna parte del texto ningún binomio linneano de Arundo asociado con Calamagrostis. Por el contrario, la cita que hace Adanson de una ilustración de Morison bajo Arundo establece una conexión explícita con un nombre linneano concreto, demostrando que no todos los elementos de Arundo fueron incluidos dentro de Calamagrostis. Esta evidencia indica que Calamagrostis Adans. no era nomenclaturalmente superfluo en el momento de su publicación y, por tanto, debe ser tratado como un nombre legítimo.

***Palabras clave**: Código Internacional de Nomenclatura, nombre ilegítimo, Código de Madrid, nombre nomenclaturalmente superfluo, sinónimo.*

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ISSN-e: 2340-5074

This communication arose from a nomenclatural question concerning the evaluation of the name *Calamagrostis* Adans. (*Gramineae*), published in Adanson's *Familles des Plantes* (1763). Although currently accepted as a valid name in taxonomic treatments, the relationship between *Calamagrostis* and *Arundo* L. in Adanson's work requires clarification under the provisions of the International Code of Nomenclature (ICN, Madrid Code; Turland et al., 2025). The nomenclatural status of *Calamagrostis* has not, to our knowledge, been the subject of a detailed discussion in the literature. However, the treatment of *Arundo* under "*Kalamagrostis*" in the index of Adanson's *Familles des Plantes* (1763) raises a potential issue under Art. 52 of the ICN, as it could be interpreted as indicating that *Calamagrostis* was nomenclaturally superfluous at the time of publication.

In Adanson's *Familles des Plantes*, the genus *Calamagrostis* is described on page 31 (1763). However, in the index (p. 530), the spelling "*Kalamagrostis*" appears, followed by Linnaeus's genus *Arundo* (Adanson, 1763): "KALAMAGROSTIS. Diosk. / 31 / Negil. Arab. / Gramen. Scheuz. t. 3. f. 5. / Arundo. Lin." Both entries are linked to page 31 and appear to refer to the same taxonomic entity. The inclusion of *Arundo* under "*Kalamagrostis*" suggests a possible synonymic relationship, raising the question of whether *Calamagrostis* should be considered a superfluous and therefore illegitimate name under Art. 52 of the ICN.

This brief communication evaluates whether Adanson's treatment of *Arundo* renders *Calamagrostis*. nomenclaturally superfluous and assesses its nomenclatural legitimacy. All ICN articles cited refer to the Madrid Code (Turland et al., 2025).

Evidence from Adanson's treatment and interpretation under Art. 52 of the ICN

Adanson (1763: 31) does not explicitly cite a Linnaean species of *Arundo* under *Calamagrostis*. The only direct association occurs in the index, where "Arundo *Lin*." is listed under "*Kalamagrostis*" without page references, epithets, or indication of a particular Linnaean species.

This contrasts with other treatments in the same work. For example, under *Apera*, Adanson (1763: 495) explicitly cites a Linnaean species: "*Agrostis* 1. *Lin*. *Sp*. 61", constituting an unambiguous reference to *Agrostis spica-venti* L. Likewise, under *Mibora*, Adanson (1763: 495) cites "*Agrostis* 10. *Lin*. *Spec*. 63", an explicit reference to *Agrostis minima* L. Similarly, under *Deringa*, Adanson (1763: 498) cites "*Sison* 3. *Lin*. *Sp*. 252", referring to *Sison canadense* L., and under *Killinga*, he cites "*Athamanta* 4, 5. *Lin*. *Sp*. 244", referring to *Athamanta sicula* L. These examples, among many others in *Familles des Plantes*, demonstrate that when Adanson intended to include particular Linnaean species, he did so explicitly by citing the corresponding species number and page in *Species Plantarum*.

As mentioned above, in the index under *Kalamagrostis*, Adanson (1763: 530) lists three elements: 1) "Negil. *Arab.*", 2) "Gramen. *Scheuz. t.* 3. *f.* 5.", and 3) "*Arundo Lin.*". The Scheuchzer reference (1719) corresponds to a figure cited in Linnaeus's *Species Plantarum* (1753: 82) under *Arundo calamagrostis* L., a connection later used by Hitchcock (1920: 121) to support typification of *Calamagrostis*.

However, under *Arundo*, Adanson (1763) provides only the citation "*Arundo Lin.*", without any specification of species, page, or diagnostic reference to Linnaeus (1753). Although Linnaeus recognized six species of *Arundo*, no indication is given that Adanson (1763) intended a particular taxon (e.g. *A. calamagrostis* L.).

According to Art. 52 of the *ICN*, a name is illegitimate if it was superfluous at its time of publication, i.e. if it included the type elements of an earlier name that it simultaneously replaced.

However, for superfluity to apply, it must be demonstrated that Adanson's *Calamagrostis* necessarily included the type (or all type-eligible elements) of *Arundo* L.

In this case: 1) No explicit inclusion of any Linnaean species of *Arundo* is made in the protologue of *Calamagrostis* (Adanson, 1760: 31, 530); 2) The only reference to *Arundo* appears in the index, without diagnostic or typological precision; 3) Adanson elsewhere demonstrates explicit species-level referencing when intended (e.g. *Apera*); and 4) Adanson himself treated *Arundo* as a valid genus elsewhere in the work, complicating any assumption of a strict synonymic replacement.

Final assessment and conclusion

Under his ARUNDO, Adanson (1763: 521) cited: ARUNDO. *Plin*, *Mor*. *s*[ect.] 8. *t*[ab]. 8. *f*. 9 (see Morison, 1699). This is the same figure (see Figure 1) that was cited by Linnaeus (1753: 81) under his "ARUNDO *donax* β Arundo indica laconica versicolor" (as Moris. hist. 3. p. 219. f. 8. t. 9), so it is clear that not all elements of *Arundo* L. were included under *Calamagrostis* [*Kalamagrostis*] by Adanson. The Art. 52 Note 1 of the *ICN* is similar in its effect: *Note 1*. The inclusion, with an expression of doubt, of an element in a new taxon, e.g. the citation of a name with a question mark, or in a sense that excludes one or more of its potential type elements, does not make the name of the new taxon nomenclaturally superfluous.

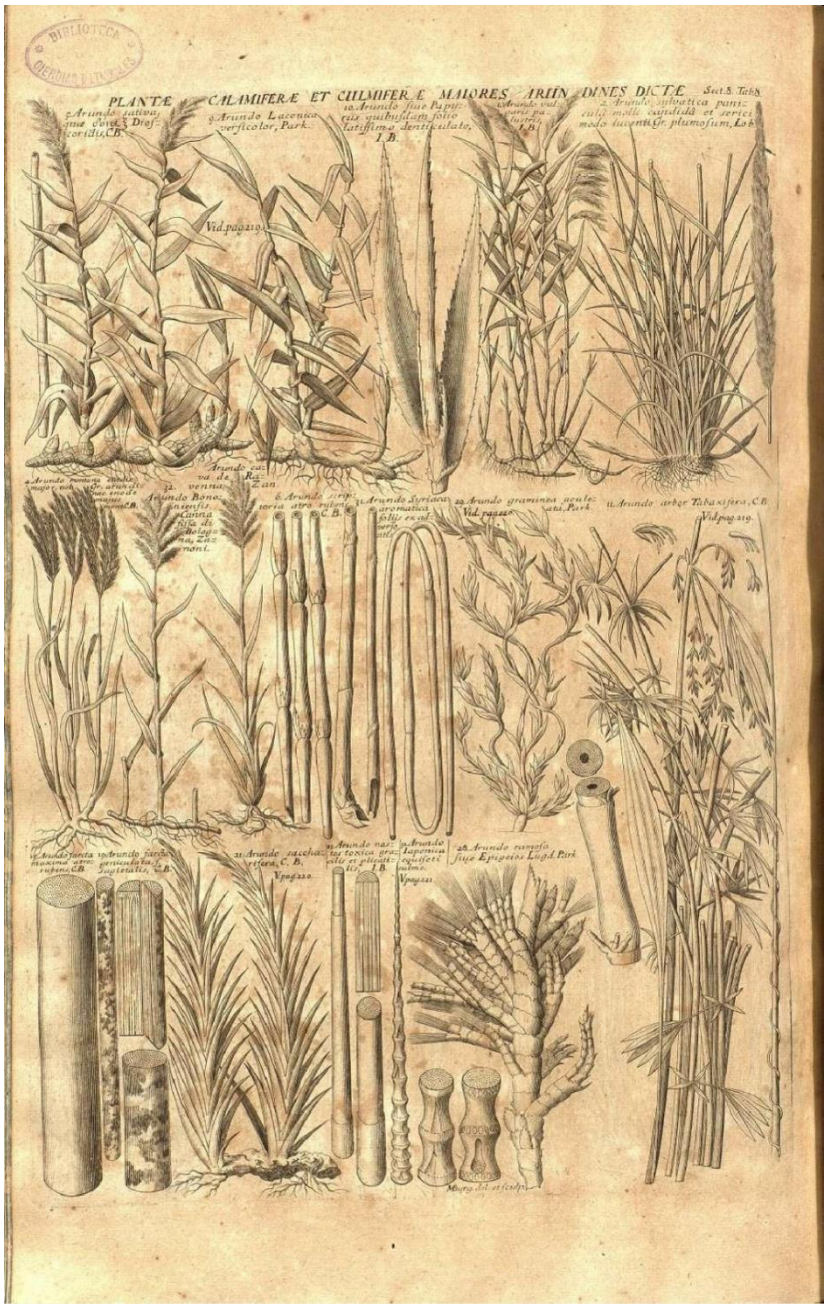


Figure 1. Illustration "Arundo Laconica versicolor, Park." published by Morison (1699: sect. 8, t. 6. f. 5; see also page 219).
Figura 1. *Ilustración "Arundo Laconica versicolor, Park.", publicada por Morison (1699: 1699: sect. 8, t. 6. f. 5; véase también la página 219).*

In addition, Ex. 6 would be relevant: *Ex. 6.* Exclusion of type by implication. *Tmesipteris elongata* P. A. Dang. (in Botaniste 2: 213. 1891) was published as a new species but *Psilotum truncatum* R. Br. was cited as a synonym. However, on the following page, *T. truncata* (R. Br.) Desv. is recognized as a different species and two pages later both are distinguished in a key, thus showing that the meaning of the cited synonym was either "*P. truncatum* R. Br. pro parte" or "*P. truncatum* auct. non R. Br."

In conclusion, the available evidence does not support the conclusion that Adanson explicitly included the type or essential elements of *Arundo* L. within *Calamagrostis* (*Kalamagrostis*). The isolated and unspecific index reference to "Arundo *Lin*." is insufficient to establish superfluity under Art. 52 of the *ICN*.

Therefore, *Calamagrostis* Adans. should be regarded as a legitimate name, not nomenclaturally superfluous.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Conceptualization: PPFG, CRZ. Investigation: PPFG, CRZ. Writing – original draft: PPFG. Writing – review & editing: PPFG, CRZ.

Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence (AI)

The authors declare that artificial intelligence (AI) was not used in the preparation or generation of the content of this manuscript.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Prof. McNeill and Dr. Wiersema for their consistently valuable advice and guidance.

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