



Typification of ornamental plants 4: *Impatiens walleriana* (Balsaminaceae)

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Impatiens walleriana Hook.f. in Oliver (1868: 302).

Protologue: “Mozambique District, Moramballa, 2000 ft., on stones in streams”. Syntypes: *J. Kirk s.n.* (K!); *H. Waller s.n.* (K!).

Lectotype (designated here): Mozambique, Moramballa, 0-3000 ft., Zambesi Expedition, *H. Waller s.n.* (K!-000419538).

Notes: The name was published as ‘*Walleriana*’, which according to the ICBN (McNeill et al., 2006) is not a correctable error. The species is sometimes erroneously cited as ‘*I. wallerana*’. The other syntype, *J. Kirk s.n.* (K!), is also the holotype of *Impatiens sultanii* Hooker (1882: t. 6643), a synonym.

The well-known bedding plant ‘busy lizzie’, *Impatiens walleriana* (Balsaminaceae), is a species occurring naturally in East Africa, where it can be found locally abundant in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. It is frequently associated with wet or humid habitats and can thus be found near streams, waterfalls and in gorges or in the understorey of wet forests. Elsewhere in the tropics and subtropics the species can commonly be found naturalised along roads, in secondary forests and other disturbed habitats, where it can form dominant stands, competing out other species (Richardson et al. 2000, Tabak & Wettenberg 2008).

Impatiens walleriana was first discovered during one of Dr David Livingstone’s expeditions up the Zambezi River, where he travelled with Dr John Kirk and Ref. Horace Waller from 1858 to 1864. The specimens collected on the Zambezi expedition were subsequently sent to Dr J.D. Hooker, then director of Kew Gardens, who described the specimens as a new species. He mentioned two specimens, one collected by Kirk, the other by Waller. These two syntypes were confused for a single specimen by Grey-Wilson (1980), who cited both specimens as a single collection ‘*Kirk & Waller s.n.*’, and he called this the holotype. The selection of the *Waller* specimen does not have any taxonomic consequences for the application of the name.

The *Kirk* collection, which was grown from seeds at Kew collected on Zanzibar, is also the holotype of another taxon described by Hooker (1882): *I. sultanii*. This was named for the Sultan Bargash of Zanzibar with whom Dr Kirk was diplomatically involved. I studied these specimens and noticed that both are identical, making *I. sultanii* synonymous to *I. walleriana*.

References

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