

Validation of the name *Ruppia mexicana* (Ruppiaceae)

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Ruppia mexicana den Hartog & van Tussenbroek (2016: 39) is a species described from the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula (den Hartog *et al.* 2016). The species is distinguished from *Ruppia maritima* Linnaeus (1753: 127), based on distinctive chromosome count and morphological characters of leaves, peduncles and fruits (Den Hartog *et al.* 2016), which was subsequently supported by microsatellite and chloroplast haplotype analysis (Triest *et al.* 2018).

In IPNI (2026) this name is considered a “*nom. inval.*”. Both POWO (2026) and IPNI (2026) established that the authors have cited two herbaria without indicating which one of these, the holotype is conserved in. Three elements must be taken into consideration to validate this name:

1. The original publication does not mention the word holotype, or its abbreviation, or its equivalent (Art. 40.4 of the ICN; Turland *et al.* 2025). A single gathering was designated by the authors as type: B. van Tussenbroek, G. Barba, J.G.R. Wong. However, two specimens were indicated, one in “UNAM” and another in “NHM”, with neither specimen selected as holotype (Art. 40.5 of the ICN; Turland *et al.* 2025). Furthermore, according to Art. 9.6, example 5 and Art. 40 note 3 of the ICN (Turland *et al.*, 2025), these two specimens should be considered syntypes. Here, the specimen at MEXU is designated as lectotype.

2. The original publication also does not mention the herbarium acronyms (Index Herbariorum, 2026) and instead the institutional acronyms, like UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) for MEXU (Herbario Nacional de México) and NHN for L (Naturalis Biodiversity Center Herbarium).

3. In addition, another reason for which the species was not validly published is the absence of a diagnosis (Article 38 of the ICN; Turland *et al.* 2025).

The name *Ruppia mexicana* is here validated in accordance with the provisions of the ICN (Turland *et al.* 2025).

Taxonomic treatment

Ruppia mexicana den Hartog & van Tussenbroek, Aquat. Bot. 131: 39. 2016.

Type:—MEXICO. Quintana Roo, Cancún, Benito Juárez, Sistema Lagunar Nichupté, Laguna costera, fondo lodoso, 21°02.330'N, 86°47.426'W, 17 June 2012, B. van Tussenbroek, G. Barba, J.G.R. Wong 201 (lectotype (designated here) MEXU 01585570!, islectotype: L!).

Diagnosis:—This species differs from *Ruppia maritima* in having maximum plant height of more than 1 m, whereas that of *R. maritima* is 0.4 m. The leaves of both species are linear with acute leaf tips, but those of *R. mexicana* are wider (0.6–1.1 mm) than the ones of *R. maritima* (<1 mm), with the sheaths of the involucre leaves being, respectively, strongly and slightly inflated. The peduncles of *R. mexicana* are 5–25 cm long, and spirally coiled when bearing fruits, while those of *R. maritima* are a maximum of 6 cm in length, often recurved or somewhat flexuous, but never recoiled in fruit stage. The elliptical sessile anthers are >1 mm in size in *R. mexicana*, and 0.4–0.7 mm in *R. maritima*. *Ruppia mexicana* has 2–4 carpels, while *R. maritima* has 4–7; the fruits are 3 mm in size and only slightly oblique in *R. mexicana*, while being 2–3 mm large and very obliquely ovoid in *R. maritima*.

Description:—see den Hartog *et al.* (2016).

Figure 1 shows the lectotype.



FIGURE 1. Lectotype of *Ruppia mexicana* den Hartog & van Tussenbroek MEXU 01585570 (image provided by the first author as curator of the Type Collection at the Herbario Nacional de México (MEXU)).

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