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# A new combination in *Alkekengi* (Solanaceae) for the Flora of China

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The genus *Physalis* Linnaeus (1753: 182) is a medium-sized genus in the family Solanaceae Jussieu (1789: 124). It includes about 75 New World species and one Eurasian species, *P. alkekengi* Linnaeus (1753: 183), the generic lectotype (Britton & Brown 1913). Recently, several phylogenetic analyses focusing on *Physalis* and related taxa strongly supported the monophyly of the morphologically typical New World species, characterized by unlobed and yellow flowers. *Physalis alkekengi* represents a divergent clade characterized by somewhat lobed, white corollas and brilliant red-orange fruiting calyces (Whitson & Manos 2005; Olmstead *et al.* 2008). In order to emphasize the monophyly and morphological homogeneity of the New World species and decrease nomenclatural disruption, the genus *Physalis* was proposed for conservation with a conserved type, *P. pubescens* Linneaus, to represent the New World species (Whitson 2011). The Eurasian *P. alkekengi* was suggested to be placed in a monotypic genus *Alkekengi* Miller (1754: AL) typified with *A. officinarum* Moench (1802: 177). This proposal was subsequently recommended for acceptance by the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants (Applequist 2012).

*Physalis alkekengi* var. *franchetii* (Masters) Makino (1908: 34) is a garden variety and commonly cultivated in China, Japan, South Korea and sometimes in Europe (Master 1894; Zhang *et al.* 1994). It is very similar to *Physalis alkekengi* var. *alkekengi* in corolla shape and calyx color, but differs mainly by its glabrescent fruiting calyces more than 3 cm wide and distinct spots at the corolla base (Zhang *et al.* 1994). During the revision of the "Catalogue of Life China", it was noticed that this variety had not yet been transferred to *Alkekengi*. Accordingly, the following new combination is proposed.

***Alkekengi officinarum*** Moench var. ***franchetii*** (Mast.) R.J.Wang, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Physalis franchetii* Masters (1894: 434, f. 57), as "*francheti*"
≡*Physalis alkekengi* Moench var. *franchetii* (Mast.) Makino, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 22(253): 34 (1908).

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