ON THE VALIDATION OF CHORIZANTHE AND MUCRONEA
(POLYGONACEAE: ERIOGONEAE)

JAMES L. REVEAL
L.H. Bailey Hortorium
Department of Plant Biology
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4301
jlr326@cornell.edu

ABSTRACT
Traditionally Chorizanthe R. Br. ex Benth. and Mucronea Benth. (Polygonaceae: Eriogoneae) were considered to have been published in the third part of volume 17 of the Transactions of the Linnean Society sometime between 21 June and 9 July 1836. In fact, both names were validly published earlier, initially in May of 1835 in the London and Edinburgh Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science, and again on 7 June 1836 in the journal Flora. No species were assigned to either genus until Bentham’s paper on Eriogoneae was published in mid-1836.

KEY WORDS: nomenclature, George Bentham, Transactions of the Linnean Society, London and Edinburgh Philosophical Magazine

While assembling a new and updated bibliography on Polygonaceae Juss. trib. Eriogoneae Dumort., it was discovered that Chorizanthe R. Br. ex Benth. and Mucronea Benth. were validly published in a review of the 7 April 1835 meeting the Linnean Society of London (Brewster et al. 1835) in which George Bentham presented a paper entitled “On the Eriogoneae, a tribe of the order Polygonaceae.” As may be seen from the dates given on the first page of individual signatures as well as the subsequently published table of contents, this notice was published in the May 1835 issue (pages 321–400) of the London and Edinburgh Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science, or about a month after the meeting. On page 379 the following appears in part of that review:

The group [Eriogoneae] consists of three genera, namely, Eriogonum distinguished by its many-flowered involucrem; Chorizanthe, a genus proposed by Mr. Brown, and distinguished from the former by having a single-flowered involucrem; and lastly, Mucronea, characterized by its bidentate involucrem, composed of two confluent bractes.

This same notice was reproduced almost word-for-word later (Beilschmied 1836) in the journal Flora (19: 332. 7 Jun 1836):

Diese Gruppe [Eriogoneae] besteht aus 3 Gattungen: Eriogonum, durch vielblühige Hülle ausgezeichnet; Chorizanthe RBr., n.g., deren nur einblühiges Involucrum sie von Eriogonum unterscheidet, und Mucronea, welche sich durch ein aus zwei zusammenfließenden Braeten gebildetes Involucrum bidehtatum charakterisirt.

According to Raphael (1970: 75), volume 17, part 3, pp. 315–464, along with plates 10–22, of the Transactions was published sometime between 21 June and 9 July of 1836. Thus Bentham’s 1836 paper, long considered the first place of validation for both names (Bentham 1856; Torrey & Gray 1870; Goodman 1934; Reveal & Hardham 1989; Reveal 2005), did not appear until after at least two reviews were published wherein his new genera were validated.

Thus, the correct citation of both names is as follows:


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The development of a bibliography, aided greatly by the advent of searchable, online 
resources of scientific literature, is part of an effort to prepare an identification manual of Eriogoneae 
for members of the Eriogonum Society. I wish to thank Kanchi N. Gandhi for his counsel and help 
with this matter.

LITERATURE CITED
17: 401–420.
Raphael, S. 1970. The publication dates of the Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, series 