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E. Walther

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An epitype for *Echeveria skinneri* E.Walther

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Summary: The original type specimen of *Echeveria skinneri* E.Walther is unclear and the taxon cannot be recognised from it. To rectify this, we have designated a new illustration as an epitype in support of the type in order to facilitate identification. This epitype is to be cited as:

Fig. 2, designated by Mottram & Bischofberger, An epitype for *Echeveria skinneri* E.Walther, *Crassulacea* **6**: 4, 7. (Apr) 2018.

Taxonomic history

Echeveria skinneri Walther, *Echeveria*: 307. 1972.

Etym: Named for Don B. Skinner, an American succulent plant grower in Los Angeles, who is said to have furnished Walther with material of this species.

T: *E. Walther* s.n., ex cult Victor Reiter; 27 Jan 1959.

Said (in the protologue) to have been gathered by Tom MacDougall under his number B-204 (Mexico, Oaxaca, Municipio de San Carlos Yautepec, Cerro Madreña, Santo Tomás Quieri, on rocks, 7000ft [2134m]; 4 Dec 1957).

HT: CAS 413180, now CAS 0002673, said to have been preserved 27 Jan 1959 by Walther from material supplied by Victor Reiter. (Fig. 1)

ET (designated & first published here): Photo of a plant supplied 12 Nov 2010 to Margrit Bischofberger by Stephen McCabe, formerly in the collection of the late Bob Grimm (1914-2011), who in turn received it as the "*E. skinneri* type collection" from Victor Reiter jr. (Fig. 2)

Obs: Live material of B-204 was donated to the University of California Botanic Garden in 1958 by MacDougall, under the garden acquisition number UCBG 58.0851-1, and continues to grow there to this day under the same acquisition number. Further live material of B-204 was donated to UCBG by C. H. Uhl in 1964, according to Moran's notes. Moran also grew it himself in San Diego, and this flowered for him in Mar 1967, and his photos of this event are reproduced in the protologue of 1972.

Discussion

The author of this taxon, Eric Walther (1892-1959), died on 1 Jul 1959, 2 years into his retirement. A little over 5 months earlier, he had prepared the specimen shown in Fig.1 from a plant in the collection of Victor Reiter in preparation for publication as a new species. He was also gathering notes for a proposed monographic treatment of the genus *Echeveria*, but this was never completed.

Walther had expressed a wish for his *Echeveria* monograph to be published after his death, and bequeathed the money raised from his modest estate for that purpose. The

manuscript was, however, incomplete, unillustrated, and a final draft had not been prepared. John Thomas Howell edited the whole and prepared it for publication. Advice on technical matters and 58 photographs were also contributed by Reid Moran. Walther left express wishes that the manuscript should not be tampered with to inject the opinions of others. Presumably this did not extend to completing data that was still missing from his first descriptions in the book.

Echeveria skinneri was given this name by Walther on 27 Jan 1959. He also drew up a description which accorded with his type specimen, but it happens not to agree well with MacDougall's gathering B-204, on which it was intended to be based. He had annotated his type specimen "B-166?", clearly a mistake because B-166 is a plant that belongs in the *Gibbiflorae*. Some confusion seems to have taken place at the time, but we have to accept that the first description of 1972 says unequivocally that this plant was of the gathering B-204, and that it was, and still is, under cultivation at the University of California Botanical Garden as UCBG 058.851.

Since the original type specimen is unidentifiable and might not even be the plant whose name has been in constant current usage since the publication of its protologue in 1972, we think the best solution is to designate an unequivocal epitype in support of the type specimen. In this way there can be no doubt about the application of the name in current usage.

Echeverias do not preserve well, so the stem characteristics are seldom revealed by exsiccata. Moreover, pressed inflorescences and flowers are difficult to distinguish. It is therefore believed that an illustration is a more suitable choice of epitype in this case. As this taxon was validly published, the ban on illustrations as types since 1 Jan 2007 does not apply (Art. 40.4, Turland: 60). Moran's illustrations accompanying the protologue are of the correct plant (Fig. 3), and possibly the only other illustrations of B-204 to have ever been published. The photos published by Pilbeam (2008: 261) were not documented. However, modern digital photographs are technically so much better than Moran's 1972 photographs, so we decided to publish a completely new illustration here of a mature, flowering plant of impeccable provenance.

Literature cited:

McNeill, J. & al. (2012) International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants. *Regnum Veg.* **154**. xxx, 208pp. Koeltz Scientific Books, for the International Association for Plant Taxonomists, Berlin.

Pilbeam, J. (2008) *The genus Echeveria*. 333pp. British Cactus & Succulent Society, Hornchurch.

Turland, N. (2013) The Code decoded. A user's guide to the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants. *Regnum Veg.* **155**. v, 169 pp. Koeltz Scientific Books, for the International Association for Plant Taxonomists, Berlin.

Walther, E. (1972) *Echeveria*. ix, 426 pp. California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.



Fig. 1 *Echeveria skinneri* holotype CAS 413180 (now 0002673). Ex cult. & said to be preserved from a plant in Victor Reiter's garden.

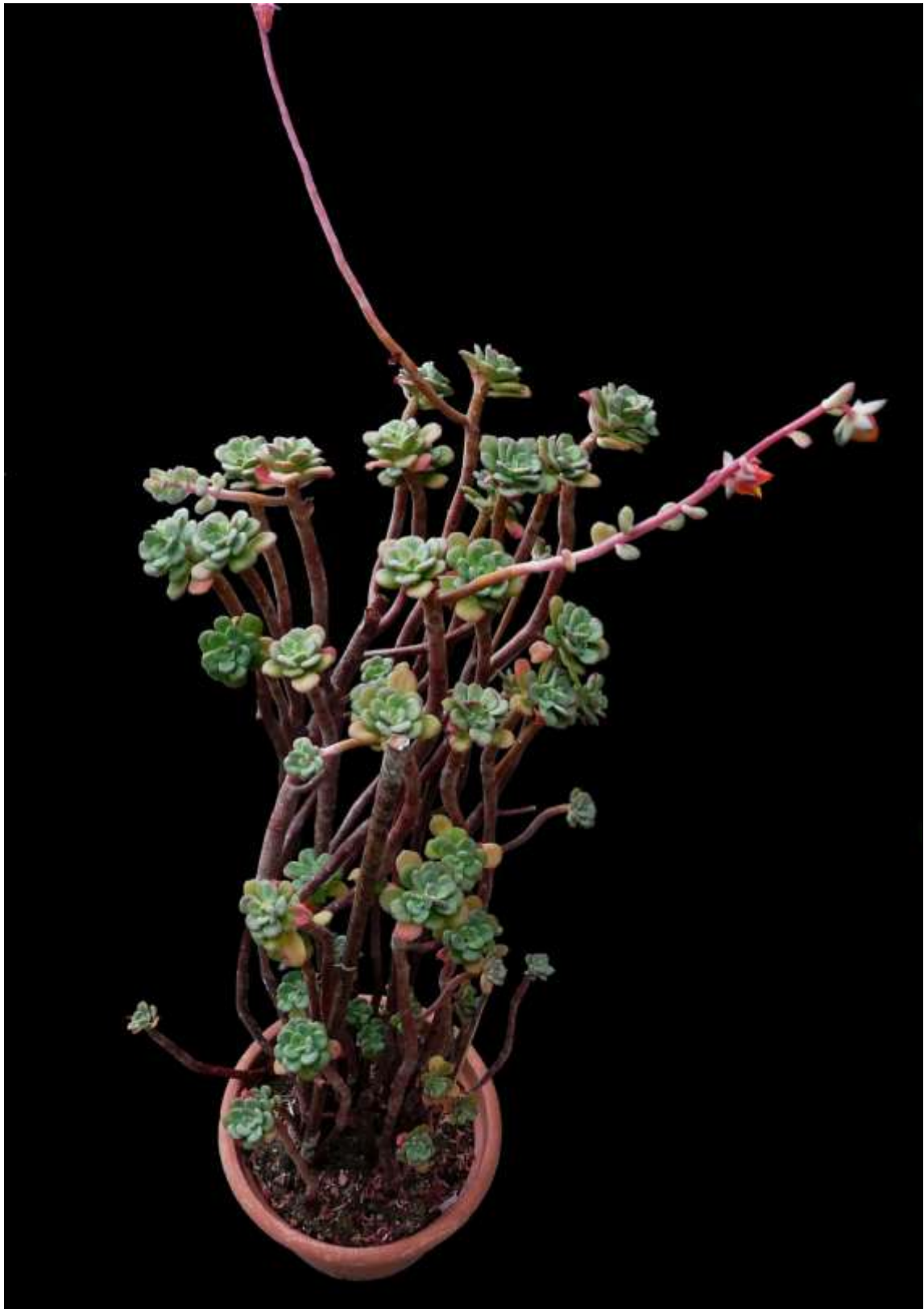


Fig. 2 *Echeveria skinneri* epitype. Photo of a plant supplied 12 Nov 2010 to Margrit Bischofberger by Stephen McCabe, formerly in the collection of the late Bob Grimm (1914-2011), who in turn received it as the "*E. skinneri* type collection" from Victor Reiter jr.



Fig. 3 *Echeveria skinneri* 23 Mar 1967. 1972 protologue photos of B-204 by Reid Moran, from Walther (1972: 308-309).