

## (2543) Proposal to conserve the name *Agave franzosinii* against *A. beaulueriana* (*Asparagaceae/Agavaceae*)

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.12705/664.18>

- (2543) *Agave franzosinii* (Sprenger) Sewell in Gard. Chron., ser. 3, 6: 639. 30 Nov 1889 ≡ *A. americana* var. *franzosinii* Sprenger in Deutsche Gärtn.-Zeitung 9: 130. 20 Apr 1885 (*Angiosp.: Amaryllid. / Asparag.*), nom. cons. prop.  
 Typus: [icon in] Bot. Mag.: t. 8317. 1910.  
 (≡) *Agave beaulueriana* Jacobi in Abh. Schles. Ges. Vaterl. Cult., Abth. Naturwiss. (Naturwiss.-Med. Abth.) 1868/69: 150. 1869 (neotyp. des. Thiede in Taxon 66: 985. 2017), nom. rej. prop.

The name *Agave franzosinii* (Sprenger) Sewell (l.c.) is applied to a species of century plant of horticultural origin unknown from the wild “obviously related to [the widely cultivated] *A. americana*”, differing in its larger, light glaucous grey or bluish glaucous leaves and taller inflorescences (Gentry, *Agaves Continental N. Amer.*: 290–291. 1982). It was first mentioned as a mere name (“*A. Franzosinii*”) by della Valle di Casanova (in Garden (London, 1871–1927) 11: 63. 27 Jan 1877), in a report on plants cultivated at the eponymous Villa Franzosini in Intra, Lago Maggiore (Italy), where its name was apparently coined and the plant may have originated.

The first, previously overlooked, description was provided by Sprenger (l.c.): “*A. americana* var. *Franzosini* hat prachtvoll, ganz hell blaugrüne Blätter, fast noch schöner in Färbung, als die der berühmten *A. applanata*.” The last part “fast noch schöner in Färbung, als die der berühmten *A. applanata*” is a “purely aesthetic” feature as defined in Art. 38.3 of the ICN (McNeill & al. in Regnum Veg. 154. 2012), but “prachtvoll, ganz hell blaugrüne Blätter” describes the essential diagnostic feature in which “var. *Franzosini*” differs from the green-leaved *A. americana* var. *americana* and is considered adequate for the description of a variety. Sprenger (l.c.) wrote at the beginning of his *Agave* account that a systematic description of the individual species was not intended but that he would deal briefly with some of the most important species, or rather, forms of the same, and thus began with the forms of *A. americana* L. Thus, there is in that introductory sentence a slight indication that Sprenger is seeking to diagnose (Art. 38.2) these variants of *A. americana*.

Based on a plant flowering at Hanbury’s garden at La Mortola (Italy), Sewell (l.c.) provided a description of *A. franzosinii* (corrected under Art. 60.12 from Sprenger’s and Sewell’s “*Franzosini*”) as a glaucous-green plant with giant leaves and an inflorescence about twelve meters (40 feet) in height; his description was previously cited as first publication of the epithet, e.g., in IPNI (<http://www.ipni.org>), WCSP (<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/>) and Tropicos (<http://www.tropicos.org>).

Sewell (l.c.) did not coin the name himself but commented that he was told that the name was *A. Franzosini* and that it was one “for which there cannot be found any authority”. Thus, *A. franzosinii* can be treated as a new combination based on Sprenger’s varietal name (Art. 41.4).

The species under the name *A. beaulueriana* Jacobi (l.c.) was described as very close in habit to *A. americana* but differing in its apically always incurved, blue-green leaves very regularly with smaller teeth between the marginal teeth. It was based on a specimen three feet in diameter that Jacobi saw in the collection of the Dutch *Agave* collector De Jonge van Ellemet at Walcheren (The Netherlands) which the latter had obtained from the nursery of L. de Smet at Ghent (Belgium). The protologue did not indicate the eponymy and used the spelling “*beaulueriana*”, whereas nearly all later authors and present databases such as IPNI and WCSP use the spelling “*beauleriana*”. Smaller intermittent teeth were not mentioned for *A. (americana) franzosinii* by Sprenger (l.c.) or Sewell (l.c.), but are mentioned by Berger (in Bot. Mag. 136: t. 8317. 1910; *Agaven*: 158. 1915) and are visible on his specimens (*Berger s.n.*, US barcodes 00044029!, 00044030! & 00044034!), but not on those of Gentry at ARIZ and US.

Neither the protologue of *A. americana* var. *franzosinii* nor that of *A. beaulueriana* indicated a type and neither cited original material eligible as a lectotype. Gentry (l.c.) designated “*Gentry 10163* (l) & *19866* (f), US, DES” as neotype for *A. franzosinii* but this is not a single specimen so is ineffective under Art. 8.1 and 9.7. In order to show the characteristic leaf colour not visible on Gentry’s specimens consisting of blackened leaf samples only, **the coloured plate in Bot. Mag. 136: t. 8317. 1910**, cited above showing habit, inflorescence and flower details **is designated here as neotype for both *A. americana* var. *franzosinii* and for *A. beaulueriana***, in order to fix the identity of both names.

Soon after its description the name *A. beaulueriana* was largely forgotten, and subsequent authors applied the name *A. franzosinii* (e.g., Baker in Gard. Chron., ser. 3, 12: 179, fig. 31. 1892; Berger, l.c.; Bailey, Stand. Cycl. Hort. 1: 234. 1919; Trelease in Standley, Trees Shrubs Mexico: 131. 1920; Jacobsen, Handb. Sukk. Pfl. 1: 121, fig. 86. 1954). Howard (Fl. Lesser Antilles 3: 489, 1979) was the first to establish the forgotten *A. “beauleriana”* as the earlier, correct name for *A. franzosinii*, but this remained unconsidered in subsequent treatments which continued to apply the name *A. franzosinii* (e.g., Gentry, l.c.; Thiede in Eggl. Illustr. Handb. Succ. Pl. Monocot.: 33. 2001; Couper & Cullen in Cullen & al., Eur. Gard. Fl., ed. 2, 1: 183. 2011). Govaerts & al. (in World Checkl. Asparagaceae. 2006, <http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/>) recently established *A. “beauleriana”* once more as the correct name for *A. franzosinii*

which was followed in several publications (e.g., Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong, *Cat. Seed Pl. W. Indies*: 85. 2012; Hochstätter, *Agave* 7: 16. 2015, <http://www.fhnavajoint.org/News.htm>; Greuter & Rodríguez, *Espermatófitos Cuba* 2: 35. 2016).

The name *Agave franzosinii* is long and well established and widely used in the scientific literature, as shown above, as well as in the popular literature and horticultural trade (Irish & Irish, *Agaves Yuccas Related Pl.*: 123–124. 2000; Heller, *Agaven*, ed. 2: 87–88. 2006; Richter, *Gattung Agave*: 70. 2011; Pilbeam, *Gallery Agaves*: 86. 2013; Moore, *Aloes & Agaves*: 233–234. 2016). Thus, conservation of *Agave*

*franzosinii* (Sprenger) Sewell against *Agave beaulueriana* Jacobi, a name almost entirely unused until its recent re-establishment, will foster nomenclatural stability for a species of horticultural importance widely cultivated especially in the Mediterranean, the southern U.S.A., and the Caribbean.

#### **Acknowledgement**

The author is indebted to Prof. John McNeill (Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, U.K.) for his advice on nomenclature and for editing the manuscript.