



Nomenclatural notes on *Ferula tunshanica* (= *F. licentiana* var. *tunshanica*) (Apiaceae)

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Abstract

The holotype of *Ferula tunshanica* S.W.Su is the flowering herbarium specimen *Wen-Zhe Fang, Ping-Ping Ling, et al.* 74020 (NAS), and not 7402 as reported in the original description. Subsequent authors have treated this taxon at varietal rank within *F. licentiana* Hand.-Mazz., but confusion exists as to the correct author, date and place of publication for var. *tunshanica*. Our research shows that var. *tunshanica* was validly published in 1992 by K.M. Shen in *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae*, and so should be cited as *F. licentiana* var. *tunshanica* (S.W. Su) R.H. Shan & Q.X. Liu ex K.M. Shen.

Key words: Apiaceae, China, *Ferula*, nomenclature

Ferula tunshanica was originally described by S.W. Su from Tongshan County in Jiangsu Province (Jiangsu Institute of Botany 1982: 935). In the protologue two gatherings, “*Wen-Zhe Fang & Ping-Ping Ling et al.* 7402, 22 June 1974, NAS” and “*Shou-Lu Liu & Gan Yao 1025, 7 August 1976, NAS*”, were indicated as “flowering type” (in Chinese) and “fruiting type” (in Chinese), respectively. However, the name *F. tunshanica* is validly published because the term “Typus” is only indicated after the “flowering type” alone, and Su’s citation of the “fruiting type” is treated as a correctable error for the paratype. After checking the cited specimens, the type gathering “*Wen-Zhe Fang & Ping-Ping Ling et al.* 7402” could not be found in NAS, whereas the type citation coincides very well with another gathering, *Wen-Zhe Fang & Ping-Ping Ling et al.* 74020, 22 June 1974, from Maocun of Tongshan County in Jiangsu Province, the only specimen of this kind conserved in NAS. Therefore, we deduce that the collection number “7402” may be a printing error, which should be corrected to “74020”.

Ferula tunshanica was reduced to a variety of *F. licentiana* Hand.-Mazz. by R.H. Shan & Q.X. Liu in accordance with the interpretation of their results of morphological character assessments and isozyme zymograms (Liu *et al.* 1987: 37–38). However, the name “*F. licentiana* var. *tunshanica*” was not validly published because they did not provide full and direct reference to the author and place of valid publication of the basionym contrary to Article 33.4 of ICBN (McNeill *et al.* 2006). *Ferula licentiana* var. *tunshanica* was later validated by K.M. Shen (1992) in *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae* through full citation of the basionym, although this was almost certainly unintentional as he gave R.H. Shan and Q.X. Liu as the authors of the combination and cited their 1987 paper. The name *F. licentiana* var. *tunshanica* is accepted in the English and updated version of *Flora of China* (Sheh & Watson 2005), whereas the reference citation of the publication date and place is incorrect. The correct nomenclatural citations for these names are provided below.

***Ferula licentiana* Hand.-Mazz. var. *tunshanica* (S.W.Su) R.H. Shan & Q.X. Liu ex K.M. Shen, *Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin.* 55(3): 114. 1992.**

Basionym: *Ferula tunshanica* S.W.Su in *Fl. Jiangsu*. 2: 584, 935. fig. 1678. 1982. Type: CHINA: Jiangsu: Tongshan County, Maocun, 22 June 1974, *Wen-Zhe Fang & Ping-Ping Ling et al.* 74020 (fl.) (holotype NAS-00042894!); *ibid.*, 7 August 1976, *Shou-Lu Liu & Gan Yao 1025* (paratype NAS!); *ibid.*, 15 June 1976, *SU (Jiangsu Institute of Botany) 7601* (paratype NAS!); *ibid.*, 10 July 1976, *SU 7607* (paratype NAS!).

Ferula licentiana var. *tunshanica* is endemic to eastern China, i.e., Anhui Province, Jiangsu and Shandong Provinces. It occurs in the wet meadows or stone slopes at altitudes between 100 and 200 m. This variety is distinguished from var. *licentiana* by the plant height 60–120 cm (vs. 120–180 cm in var. *licentiana*), rays 3–7 (vs. 7–11) and 15–30 mm long (vs. 30–50 cm), and vittae 1–3 in each furrow and 4–6 on commissure. In addition, the karyotype and isozyme zymogrames of this variety is distinct from the typical variety (Liu *et al.* 1987, 1993).

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