

LEUCAENA LEUCOCEPHALA, THE CORRECT BOTANICAL NAME FOR LEUCAENA GLAUCA

The name *Leucaena glauca* is at present in common use for a shrubby leguminous plant sometimes grown for pasture in tropical areas. Recently de Wit (1961) showed that this name cannot properly be used for this species.

The name *Leucaena glauca* (L.) Benth. is based on *Mimosa glauca* L. Sp. Pl. Ed. 2, 1504 (1763). Unfortunately the plant described by Linnaeus in the second edition of *Species Plantarum* as *Mimosa glauca* is not identical with the one for which he used the same name in the first edition (1753). The original *Mimosa glauca* is an American species of *Acacia* and is not closely related to the other plant.

The name *Leucaena glauca* is therefore illegitimate under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and cannot be used for the plant now grown in tropical countries under this name. Consequently, it becomes necessary to have another name for this species. de Wit states that the first legitimate name for this plant is *Mimosa leucocephala*. He has now transferred it to the genus *Leucaena* under the name *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) de Wit and this is the correct name for the species.

REFERENCE

- DE WIT, H. C. D. (1961).—Typification and correct names of *Acacia villosa* Willd. and *Leucaena glauca* (L.) Benth. *Taxon* X, 50 (1961).

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