A new subspecies of the genus Frailea Britton & Rose

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In 1983 a nice taxon of the genus Frailea was found by Angeles Kiesling near Concordia (Entre Rios, NW Argentina). Comparisons with other species have shown that it is morphologically most closely related to F. mammifera Buining & Brederoo, a species occurring near Dom Pedrito (Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil). The main difference is the colour of the spination, which is reddish brown in the new taxon (versus yellow in Frailea mammifera). This Frailea has become common in cultivation and is often distributed under the provisional name 'Frailea angelesii'. In view of its disjunct distribution and distinctive characters, but also its overall similarity to Frailea mammifera, it should be classified as a subspecies rather than as species. To make the name available for the use in the New Cactus Lexicon it is described here at this rank:



Frailea pygmaea ssp. tuyenis Paraguay, Paraguarí, S of Quindy, Metzing 25.



Frailea mammifera ssp. angelesiae Argentina, Entre Rios, dept. Concordia, Metzing 119; cult. (photos: Metzing)

Frailea mammifera subsp. angelesiae R. Kiesling & Metzing subspecies nova, a Frailea mammifera Buining & Brederoo subsp. mammifera spinis castaneis non tuberculatis, lana florae cinerea recedit. Holotype: Argentina, Prov. Entre Rios, dept. Concordia, Concordia, coll. 1983, prep. ex cult. 1985, Kiesling & Lopez 5930 (SI). Etymology: Named for Angeles Kiesling, who discovered this taxon in 1983.

A more detailed description of this taxon will be published in a separate paper (Metzing & Kiesling, in prep.). We thank Juan Martínez Laborde from Madrid, Spain, for correcting the Latin diagnosis.

Comments on some Parodias from southern Brazil

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Parodia curvispina (Ritter) Hunt was described by Friedrich Ritter (1979: 189) in 1979 as Notocactus curvispinus F. Ritter. For this species, Ritter indicated the collection numbers FR 1479 and HU 338. In the same publication Ritter described Notocactus permutatus Ritter (1979: 188, 189), N. cristatoides Ritter (1979: 190, 191) and N. rubropedatus Ritter (1979: 189, 190). The locations indicated of all the four 'species' are the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, in the triangle between the cities of São Gabriel, Dom Pedrito and Lavras do Sul. In 1986 Lisal & Kolarik (1986), having shown that the collection number HU 338 actually included a mixture of three different taxa, described N. arnostianus Lisal & Kolarik and N. ritterianus Lisal & Kolarik. The location of these two species is north of Dom Pedrito. And in 2003, Notocactus vilanovensis C.E. Koch (2003) was described from the region of the village Vila Nova, which is about 45 km east of São Gabriel.

P. curvispina was never rediscovered in habitat, whilst Ritter's other taxa mentioned above were found again. The author has been several times at the place where HU 338 was collected but has never seen plants of P. curvispina there, only N. arnostianus and N. ritterianus which are indeed very easy to mix up when they are small. In Englera 16: 565 it is stated that Ritter got the plants described as N. curvispinus from the well-known collector of Brazilian cacti Leopoldo Horst and first gave them another number (FR 1455a). This means that he (Ritter) had never been there himself. And there is a notice in Ritter's diary from 5 May 1971. There he mentions that he got the plants from Horst, who found it at the border between Dom Pedrito and Lavras ('bei der Grenze von Dom Pedrito – Lavras'). That is not the place where N. arnostianus and N. ritterianus were found. And this means that P. curvispina didn't grow together with N. arnostianus and N. ritterianus. In any case there have been some articles in Internoto (Brederoo & Theunissen 1982; Lisal & Kolarik 1986) which give us a clear impression of what P. curvispina is. It looks like P. concinna but has the flowers, fruits and seeds of a Neonotocactus like Parodia mammulosa (Lemaire)