

Validation of the name *Cotoneaster froebelii* (Rosaceae)

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Abstract

The name *Cotoneaster froebelii* has apparently never been validly published; it is here validated as *C. froebelii* J. Fryer, **sp. nov.**

Introduction

Cotoneaster froebelii is the name used for one of the more than 400 species treated in the standard monograph of the genus by Fryer & Hylmö (2009), and one of the 90 alien taxa recognised as occurring in the wild in the British Isles (Stace, 2019). It has, however, never been validly published.

It has appeared in various lists as *C. froebelii* Vilm., nom. nud., in Stace (2019) as *C. froebelii* M. Vilm. ex Sax, and in Fryer & Hylmö (2009) as *C. froebelii* Sax ex Vilmorin. "Sax" refers to a paper in the *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* by Hally J. Sax (Sax, 1954). [Since the author abbreviation 'Sax' refers to Karl Sax (husband of Hally), Hally J. Sax should be abbreviated H.J. Sax]. In Sax (1954), however, the species is simply listed as *C. froebelii* Vilmorin, with no description and no reference to where Vilmorin coined the name. In any case, Vilmorin did not describe any new species of *Cotoneaster*, and probably, like Sax, simply listed *C. froebelii*, or possibly he simply distributed it under that name. Moreover, until the place of this listing is traced we cannot be sure which of the several Vilmorins was involved. It was probably Auguste Louis Maurice Lévêque de Vilmorin (1849-1918), to be abbreviated as M. Vilm. I therefore describe this species anew; the description is taken from Fryer & Hylmö (2009):

Cotoneaster froebelii J. Fryer, **sp. nov.**

Shrub 1.5-2m; branches erect, spreading. Leaves deciduous, sometimes semi-evergreen, chartaceous or subcoriaceous, broadly ovate on sterile shoots, 18-28 x 10-18mm, acute at apex, obtuse at base; upper surface slightly rugose, dark green, sparsely strigose, with deeply impressed veins; lower surface grey-tomentose. Fertile shoots 22-28mm, including 1-3(6)-flowered inflorescence. Hypanthium and sepals pilose-strigose, tomentose at margin; sepals acute to acuminate; petals erect, incurved, red and pink; stamens 13-20; filaments red with off-white base; anthers white. Fruit subglobose or broadly obovoid, 9-10mm, bright red, sparsely pilose, with calyx-lobes flat and densely pilose, with navel closed or with small opening; nutlets (3-)4(-5); style remains 1/2 to 2/3 from base.

Holotype: China, N.E. Yunnan, between Yiliang and Xiaocuba, 5 October 1995, Cox & Hutchinson 7104 (E).

If Vilmorin's listing of *C. froebelii* is traced, 'M. Vilm. ex' could be inserted before 'J. Fryer'.

Cotoneaster froebelii (Fig. 1) is a lower growing shrub than the well-known *C. dielsianus*, with a more spreading, arching habit; leaves thinner, with the upper surface dark green, sparsely strigose, and with deeply impressed veins; petioles mostly 1-2mm; flowering shoots up to 28mm long, with 1-3(6)-flowers with mostly acute sepals; fruit 9-10mm, bright red.



Figure 1. Flowers (left) and fruits (right) of *Cotoneaster froebelii*

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References

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