

LELSTOTHECA: A NEW NAME FOR STELLOTHECA SURANGE & PRAKASH

SURANGE and PRAKASH (1962) established the genus *Stellotheca* for equisetaceous foliage, from the Barakar Formation of the Rajmahal Hills (Bihar), previously described by FEISTMANTEL (1880) under the name *Phyllotheca robusta*. DANZÉ (1956, p. 283) had earlier proposed the name *Stellatheca*—with *Stellatheca latiloba* Danzé 1956 as its type species—for Posingian fertile frond from the Westphalian C of Pas-de-Calais, France.

Now, under article 64 of International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (1966, p. 55) "A name is illegitimate and must be rejected if it is a later homonym, that is, if it is spelled exactly like a name previously and validly published for a taxon of the same rank based on a different type." Article 64 further notes that "Mere orthographic variants of the same name are treated as homonyms when they are based on different types (see Arts. 73 and 75)."

I consider that the name *Stellotheca* is an orthographic variant of the earlier *Stellatheca*, and the two are likely to be confused (see examples of orthographic variants under article 75, p. 63 of ICBN, 1966; viz. *Pleuripetalum* and *Pleuropetalum* etc.). As such the name *Stellotheca* must be rejected in favour of earlier *Stellatheca* under articles 64 and 75 of the Code. I, therefore, propose a new name *Lelstotheca*, which is an anagram of the now rejected name *Stellotheca*.

Lelstotheca, nom. nov.

1962 *Stellotheca* Surange & Prakash, *Palaeobotanist*, v. 9, p. 50

Type species: *Phyllotheca robusta* Feistmantel, 1880, p. 68, pl. XIV A, figs. 1-2—*Stellotheca robusta* (Feistmantel) Surange & Prakash, 1962, p. 50, pl. 1, figs. 1-7, text-figs. 1-2—*Lelstotheca robusta* (Feistmantel) Maheshwari, comb. nov.

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HARI K. MAHESHWARI

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow-226007