

RAUIELLA NIVEO-CALYCINA (THUIDIACEAE, MUSCI) IS A NEW SYNONYM OF *R. PRAELONGA*

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Summary: *Raiiella niveo-calycina* (Müll. Hal) Wijk & Marg. is proposed as a new synonym of *R. praelonga* (Schimp. ex Besch) Wijk & Marg. The species treated is discussed briefly.

Key words: *Raiiella niveo-calycina*, *R. praelonga*, Thuidiaceae, Neotropics.

Resumen: *Raiiella niveo-calycina* es un sinónimo nuevo de *R. praelonga*. *R. niveo-calycina* (Müll. Hal) Wijk & Marg. es propuesta en este trabajo como un sinónimo nuevo de *R. praelonga* (Schimp. ex Besch) Wijk & Marg. La especie tratada es brevemente discutida.

Palabras clave: *Raiiella niveo-calycina*, *R. praelonga*, Thuidiaceae, Neotrópico.

Raiiella niveo-calycina (Müll. Hal) Wijk & Marg. was originally described as *Thuidium niveo-calycina* Müll. Hal. The type material collected in «*Argentina subtropica, Chaco, San Andrés, Sept. 1873, P. G. Lorentz*», according to the literature, had not been found until now. Gier (1981) considered it as a good species, distinguished by the whitish color of the perichaetial leaves, a character described in Müeller's protologue.

However, Buck (1991) doubts about the distinction of *R. niveo-calycina* from the two neotropical species, *R. lagoensis* or *R. praelonga*, a criterion shared by Schiavone & Suárez (2007).

During a visit to the Herbarium of the Natural History Museum of Finland in Helsinki (H), we were able to locate the type material. It includes few plants, brown greenish with lax and irregular branches and small leaves with pluripapillose cells. Our observations confirm that *R. niveo-calycina* is indistinguishable from *R. praelonga*. Thus, we here propose it as new synonym.

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