ORTHOGRAHY OF THE SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE HYBRID BANEBERRY, *ACTAEA ×LUDOVICI* (RANUNCULACEAE)\(^1\)

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The baneberry hybrid *Actaea pachypoda* Ell. × *A. rubra* (Ait.) Willd. was given the binomial *Actaea ×Ludovici* [sic] by Boivin in 1967. Morton and Venn (1990) and Kartesz and Meacham (1999) have adhered to Boivin’s original orthography except for the capitalization. Other authors have used the amended spelling *ludovicii*, following Index Kewensis, Supplement XV (Heslop-Harrison 1974). References in which the amended spelling appears include the Flora of Canada (Scoggan 1978), Flora of North America North of Mexico (Ford 1997), the Ontario Plant List (Newmaster et al. 1998), and the International Plant Names Index (web site, as of 2003).

*Actaea ×ludovici* was named for Père Louis-Marie (né Louis Lalonde, 1896–1978), a faculty member for many years at l’Institut Agricole d’Oka, in Oka, Québec, who was one of the collectors of the type specimen. The epithet *ludovici* is a Latinization of Louis, and is a second-declension, singular noun in the genitive case.

The familiar *-ii* genitive ending is correct when a name in the masculine gender already in Latin form, or as hypothetically Latinized, ends in *-ius* in the nominative case. The first *i* is retained from the root of the noun; the second *i* is an ending denoting the genitive case. In Classical Roman usage the second *i* was sometimes dropped, but in botanical Latin it is consistently retained, as in *Oxalis dillenii* Jacq., named for Johann Jakob Dillenius. When a name in Latin form, whether from the Classical period or more recent, ends in *-us* not directly preceded by an *i*, the root of the noun does not contain a terminal *i* to be retained. The genitive ends in the single *i* that constitutes the case ending, as in *Abutilon theophrasti* Medik., named for Theophrastus of Eresus, and *Gentianella hieronymi* (Gilg) Fabris, named for Georg Hans Emmo Wolfgang Hieronymus.

The correct orthography of the baneberry epithet *ludovici* is determined, therefore, by that of the Latinization of Louis. The standard Latinization or Latin cognate is Ludovicus, as indicated in such references as Botanical Latin (Stearn 1983, p. 72) and the unabridged Funk and Wagnall’s Standard Dictionary. The genitive of *Ludovicus* is *ludovici*. The original orthography used by Boivin is the

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correct orthography, in accord with Article 60 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (St. Louis Code), including Recommendation 60C.

LITERATURE CITED


