

**NEOSHIRAKIA,
A NEW NAME FOR SHIRAKIA HURUS. (EUPHORBIACEAE)**

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Shirakia (Euphorbiaceae) was described by Hurusawa (1954) with three species. It was named after *Croton shiraki*, a nomen nudum used by Siebold & Zuccarini (1843) for the species currently known as *S. japonica* (Siebold & Zucc.) Hurus. Kruijt (1996) transferred five additional species to *Shirakia*. Esser et al. (1998) showed that *S. japonica*, the type, differs in several characters from the remainder of the genus. In a phylogenetic analysis they concluded that all additional species have to be removed to other genera (*Shirakiopsis* Esser ined., *Triadica* Lour.), with *Shirakia* remaining as a monotypic genus endemic to Japan and adjacent East Asia.

The name, however, is a later homonym of *Shirakia* S. Kawasaki, a fern fossil described in 1934 from South Korea. This information is included in the WWW version of the Index Nominum Genericorum (Farr & Zijlstra, 1996 and onward). Because this earlier homonym was published in a publication of very restricted distribution, it was overlooked by recent workers (Kruijt, 1996; Esser et al., 1998). Gea Zijlstra and John Wiersema kindly confirmed that a new name is still necessary for *Shirakia* Hurus., and this is provided herewith.

NEOSHIRAKIA Esser, *nom. nov.*

Excoecaria L. sect. *Parasapium* Müll. Arg., *Linnaea* 32 (1863) 123. — *Shirakia* Hurus., *J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo, Sect. 3, Bot.* 6 (1954) 317 [non *Shirakia* S. Kawasaki, *Bull. Geol. Surv. Chosen* 6(4) (1934) 98]. — Type: *Neoshirakia japonica* (Siebold & Zucc.) Esser, based on *Stillingia japonica* Siebold & Zucc.

Neoshirakia japonica (Siebold & Zucc.) Esser, *comb. nov.*

Stillingia japonica Siebold & Zucc., *Abh. Königl. Bayer. Akad. Wiss., Math.-Phys. Kl.* 4 (1843) 145. — *Excoecaria japonica* (Siebold & Zucc.) Müll. Arg., *Linnaea* 32 (1863) 123. — *Sapium japonicum* (Siebold & Zucc.) Pax & K. Hoffm. in *Engl., Pflanzenr.* IV, 147, v (1912) 252. — *Triadica japonica* (Siebold & Zucc.) Nakai, *Chosen-Sanri-Kaiho* 122-5 (1935) 26. — *Shirakia japonica* (Siebold & Zucc.) Hurus., *J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo, Sect. 3, Bot.* 6 (1954) 318. — Lectotype (designated by Peter van Welzen): *Siebold s.n.* (holo L 903.159-677; iso L 2 sheets), Japan.

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