Priority of *Glossopteris cordatifolia* Feistmantel 1890 over *G. feistmantelii* Rigby 1964, occurring in the Permian of India

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INTRODUCTION

The present note deals with the renaming of *Glossopteris feistmantelii* Rigby 1964 as *Glossopteris cordatifolia* Feistmantel 1890, considering inconsistency in nomenclatural assignment by Feistmantel and Rigby while instituting these taxa. As per the prevailing facts, *Glossopteris cordatifolia* has a priority over *Glossopteris feistmantelii*.

*Glossopteris cordatifolia* Feistmantel 1890

*Glossopteris cordata* Feistmantel 1882, p. 35, pl. 20A, fig. 1
*Glossopteris cordatifolia* Feistmantel, 1890, p. 37
*Glossopteris feistmantelii* Rigby 1964, p. 154
*Glossopteris feistmantelii* (Chandra & Surange, 1979)
*Glossopteris feistmantelii* (Singh & Chandra, 2000)
*Glossopteris feistmantelii* (Tewari, 2007)
*Glossopteris feistmantelii* (Singh et al., 2011)

*Glossopteris (?) cordata* was described and figured by Dana (1849: 718, pl. 13, fig. 5) from the Permian of New South Wales, Australia, the ‘(?)’ was because the leaf had an auriculate base that had not been found previously within the genus *Glossopteris*. This species has been revised by Rigby et al. (1980).

Feistmantel (1882) described and figured specimen 5478, Geological Survey of India collection (Chandra & Surange, 1979) from the South Rewa Gondwana Basin, which he named *G. cordata* sp. nov.

Rigby (1964) renamed Feistmantel’s species as *G. feistmantelii* nom. nov., with Feistmantel’s specimen as lectotype, being totally unaware that Feistmantel (1890, p. 37) had corrected his lack of memory that the name *G. cordata* was preoccupied. During his time in India, Feistmantel lived in Raniganj so probably did not have access to extensive library collections. Herein is recorded that this author found the citation by accident when searching Feistmantel (1890) in case there were any species mentioned in the text for use as comparison or distributions. Translation of the text from the original Czech into English was accomplished using the Google Translation Programme, and was checked using the Babylon translation site. Both translations agreed closely.

Feistmantel gave the date of publication of his new name as 1889. Rigby checked all appropriate papers listed by Bosák (1980) and found Feistmantel (1889a, b) to have been the only possible ones to have included a taxonomic correction. Both were examined carefully and found to have made no mention of *G. cordatifolia*. Feistmantel (1889b, p. 6-21) included a very comprehensive literature survey of all publications covering the *Glossopteris* flora, omitting only Dana (1849). It appears that the book that included Dana’s paper was issued in an edition of only 100 copies thus the apparent lapse may be excused.

I have assumed that Feistmantel should have written *G. cordatifolia* sp. nov., or 1890 instead of *G. cordatifolia* 1889. The paper was completed in 1889, based on the date of the introduction (Novák, p VII, in Feistmantel, 1890).

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