

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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37. NOMENCLATURAL NOTES ON SOME PLANTS FROM MAHARASHTRA

During our studies of the Flora of Sindhurdurg district we have come across some plant names which need corrections with reference to the rules of 'International Code of Botanical Nomenclature'. In this communication, we have discussed the status of the names of three common endemic species from Maharashtra.

1. **Mammea longifolia** (Wight) Planch. & Triana, in *Ann. Sci. Nat. Ser. 4*, 15 : 240, 1861. *Calysaccion longifolius* Wight, *Ill.* 1 : 130, 1840 & *Icon. t.* 1999, 1844. *Ochrocarpus longifolius* Benth. ex T. Anders., in *Fl. Brit. India* 1 : 270, 1874. *Calophyllum suriga* Buch.-Ham. ex Roxb., *Fl. Ind.* 2 : 608, 1832. *Mammea suriga* (Buch.-Ham.) Kosterman, in *Comm. For. Res. Inst. Indonesia (Bogor)* 72 : 23, f. 19, 1961; Santapau, in *Bull. Bot. Surv. India* 3 : 19, 1961.

Kosterman (l.c.) made a new combination, in genus *Mammea* Linn., based on Buchanan Hamilton's name *Calophyllum suriga* published by Roxburgh. Rev. Fr. H. Santapau adopted Kosterman's name for our common Indian species known by popular local name

as "Surangi" and since then it has been used in Indian Floras as the correct name. However, we have found that the basionym of Kosterman's new combination is a superfluous name and has to be rejected. Roxburgh, in the prologue of his new name has cited *Calophyllum soulattri* Burm. f. as a direct synonym. According to Article no. 63¹ of ICBN, Roxburgh's name becomes an illegitimate name and should be rejected. The earliest valid name for the species is *Calysaccion longifolium* Wight. Since the genus *Ochrocarpus* Thouars is merged with *Mammea* Linn. the correct name for the species should be *Mammea longifolia* (Wight) Planch. et Triana.

2. **Embelia acutipetalum** (Lamk. ex Hasskarl) Comb. nov. *Basal* no. 1, Lamk., *Encycl.* 1 : 381, 1783. *Basal acutipetalum* Lamk. ex Hasskarl, *Hort. Malab. Rheed. clavis*, 40, 1867;

¹ Article 63 states, "A name is illegitimate and is to be rejected if it was nomenclaturally superfluous when published, i.e. if the taxon to which it was applied, as circumscribed by its author, included the type of a name or epithet which ought to have been adopted under the rules."

Dauceria acuta Dennstedt, Schllues Zum Hort. Malab. 31, 1818. *Embelia acuta* (Dennst.) Alston, in Trimen Handb. Fl. Ceylon 6 : suppl. 177, 1931. *Embelia tsjarium-cottam* (Roem. et Schult.) A. DC., in Wight Icon. t. 1209, 1848; Santapau, Fl. Khandala, ed. 3, 141, 1967. *Embelia robusta* auct. non Roxburgh, 1832; Brandis For. Fl. 2 : 284, 1874; Clarke, C. B. in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3 : 515, 1832; Cooke, T., Fl. Presid. Bombay 2 : 85, 1904.

Embelia tsjarium-cottam A.DC. is the commonly accepted name for the species known in Maharashtra under vernacular name "Vauding" or "Waurung". Seeds of this species are collected and used in preparation in Ayurvedic medicines for anthelmintic purposes. Alfonse de Candolle made a new combination *Embelia tsjarium-cottam*, based on *Ardisia tsjarium-cottam* Roem. et Schult. (Syst. 4 : 518, 1819). Actually both of these names and also *Antidesma pubescens* Roxb. (Pl. Corom. Coast 2 : 35, t. 167, 1798) are based on "Tsjarium-cottam" of Rheede's figure, in Hortus Malabaricus (5 : 21, t. 11, 1688). Plants based on Rheede's above mentioned figure are now considered conspecific with an Euphorbiaceous species *Antidesma ghasem-billa* Gaertn. (see also Cooke, T. l.c.). Therefore *E. tsjarium-cottam* A.DC. should not be used for our Myrsinaceous species. Rheede's text figure in Hortus Malabaricus (5 : 23, t. 12, 1688) 'Basal' (Besaal in plate) represents our species, which also cites vernacular name 'Vidingi'. In post-Linnean taxonomic works, Lamark was the first to use Rheede's 'Basal' for naming the plant. But unfortunately he did not use binomial system for the nomenclature. After Lamark, it was Dennstedt who named Rheede's 'Basal' as *Dauceria acuta* Dennst. But according to H. W. Rickett & F. A. Staflew (Taxon 10 : 80, 1961) and H. Manitz (Taxon 17 : 500, 1968) Dennstedt's

name is nomen nudum. According to Article no. 41 of ICBN, the name of species is not valid if it is not published in combination with an already published generic name. According to Rickett & Staflew (l.c.) publication of genus and species which refers to pre-Linnean work does not constitute a valid publication. J. K. Hasskarl (Horti Malabarici Rheedeani Clavis Locuplectissima, 40, 1867) gives *Basal acutipetalum* Lamk., attributing the binomial to Lamark (Encycl. 1 : 381, no. 1, 1783). Since Lamark did not publish the actual binomial, the name '*Basal acutipetalum*' should be effective from 1867, and should be called *Basal acutipetalum* Lamk. ex Hasskarl. Therefore a new combination *Embelia acutipetalum* (Lamk. ex Hasskarl) comb. nov. is proposed.

3. *Olax psittacorum* (Willd.) Vahl, Enum. 34, 1804. *Fissilia psittacorum* Willd., Sp. Pl. 1 : 194, 1797. *Olax scandens* Roxb., Pl. Cor. 2 : 2, t. 102, 1798 & Fl. Ind. 1 : 164, 1832; Wight & Arn., Prodr. 89, 1834; Graham, Cat. Bombay Pl. 22, 1839; Masters, in Fl. Brit. India 1 : 575, 1875; Sleumer, in Pflanzenfam. ed. 2, 16B : 27, 1935; Santapau, Fl. Khandala, ed. 3, 38-9, 1967.

Fissilea psittacorum Willd., is the oldest name for the species which goes under the name of *Olax scandens* Roxb. in our floras. Vahl made new combination in genus *Olax* Linn., based on specific epithet *psittacorum*. Roxburgh, (in Fl. Ind. 1 : 164, 1832) cites *Fissilea psittacorum* Willd. as a synonym under the *Olax scandens* Roxb. Index Kewensis lists *Fissilea psittacorum* Lamk., attributing specific epithet *psittacorum* to Lamark. However, Lamark did not publish the specific name *psittacorum*. He gave the diagnosis and the plate of genus *Fissilea* Comm. ex Juss. (Gen. 260, 1789) (see also Lamk., Illustr. Gen. 1 : 102, t. 28, 1791). Willdenow, (in Sp.

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Pl. 1 : 194, 1797) named Lamark's plate and diagnosis as *Fissilea psittacorum* Willd. Therefore the specific name *psittacorum* should not be attributed to Lamark but to Willdenow. However, Blanco, (Fl. Filip. ed. 1, 28, 1837) used the name *F. psittacorum* for species presently known as *Olax wightiana* Wall. ex. Wight & Arn. and Masters (l.c.) has placed Vahl's name *Olax psittacorum* (Willd.) Vahl, in the synonymy of *Olax wightiana* Wall. as well as *Olax scandens* Roxb.

Roxburgh's identification of his own species — *Olax scandens* Roxb. — synonymous with *Fissilea psittacorum* renders his name superfluous and should be rejected.

Sleumer (l.c.) treats *O. scandens* Roxb. and

O. wightiana Wall. as conspecific. Rev. Fr. H. Santapau (l.c.) keeps both these species as distinct, but seems to be in trouble while correctly placing his Khandala plants under the proper species. Even if we consider Master's view as correct in keeping them as distinct species, then *Olax psittacorum* (Willd.) Vahl should replace *Olax scandens* Roxb. According to Article no. 53 of ICBN, "When a species is divided into two or more species, the original specific epithet must be retained for one of them or, if it has not been retained, it must be reinstated for one of them."

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