
The Monotypic Malagasy Genus *Alleizettea* is *Danais volubilis* (Rubiaceae)

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During an investigation of *Danais* currently underway and carried out primarily in order to obtain further evidence for the subfamilial and tribal position of the genus (subfam. Cinchonoideae tribe Cinchoneae or subfam. Rubioideae tribe Hedyotideae; cf. Robbrecht, 1988), herbarium (P) material was studied, and the holotype specimen of *Alleizettea bracteata* Dubard & Dop, the only species of this Malagasy genus, surfaced.

The specimen, which unfortunately had never been marked as a type, was apparently placed with undetermined material of *Danais* after someone had detected its resemblance to species of that genus.

Dubard & Dop (1925) suggested in the protologue that *Alleizettea* belongs to the tribe Mussaendeae (now Isertieae), the presence of raphides in the tissues of *A. bracteata* being a good argument in favor of its placement in that tribe. Listing several differences, they argued that there is no close alliance between *Alleizettea* and Malagasy species of *Mussaenda* and suggested that it is closer to *Sabicea* (also Isertieae) and to *Urophyllum* (= *Pauridiantha*, Pauridiantheae).

In his survey of the Rubiaceae, Robbrecht (1988) did not follow Dubard & Dop and listed *Alleizettea* among the dubious genera (p. 196). He was probably led to this decision by Dubard & Dop's outdated conception of the Mussaendeae. Most of the genera they considered belonging to that tribe have since been placed elsewhere, and the Isertieae, as circumscribed presently, are characterized by the absence of raphides.

Moreover, it was found upon reexamination of the type that Dubard & Dop's protologue is misleading and inadequate in some aspects. There is, for example, no reference to the characteristic winged seeds, although almost mature fruits were available, and they had discovered, when closely studying the ovaries, that the placentas bear numerous ovules that are flattened at the margins, i.e., having wing-like projections of the ovules that are seen even before fertilization and increase in size afterwards.

Danais Vent., Tabl. 2: 548. 1799.

Alleizettea Dubard & Dop, J. Bot. (Morot) sér. 2, 3: 6 (1925), syn. nov. TYPE: *A. bracteata* Dubard & Dop.

Danais volubilis Baker, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 20: 161. 1883. TYPE: Madagascar. Top of Ifody mountain, *Baron 1372* (holotype, BM; isotypes, K, P).

Alleizettea bracteata Dubard & Dop, J. Bot. (Morot) sér. 2, 3: 6, fig. 3. 1925. syn. nov. TYPE: Madagascar. Betsitra par Anjozorobé (Imerina du Nord), *d'Alleizette 1* (holotype, P).

Literature Cited

- Dubard, M. & P. Dop. 1925. Étude de quelques types nouveaux ou peu connus de Rubiacées de Madagascar. J. Bot. (L. Morot), sér. 2. 3: 1–31.
Robbrecht, E. 1988. Tropical woody Rubiaceae. Opera Bot. Belgique 1: 1–271.



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