**Tapirira obtusa** comb. nov. (Anacardiaceae)

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**ABSTRACT.** The discovery that one of the syntypes cited by Engler under the name *Tapirira marchandii* is also the type for an earlier, validly published name, *Mauria obtusa* Bentham, necessitates the transfer of *Mauria obtusa* to *Tapirira*. The new combination *Tapirira obtusa* takes priority over *Tapirira marchandii* Engler.

A review of the literature and specimens of *Tapirira* (Anacardiaceae) has revealed the existence of an earlier name, which has priority over *Tapirira marchandii* Engler.

The specimen "Schomburgk 892" [= Robert Schomburgk series II 892] is included in the list of syntypes cited by Engler (1876) under the original description of *Tapirira marchandii*. This is the same specimen as one of the two syntypes mentioned by Bentham (1852) for his species, *Mauria obtusa*. Bentham described two other species of *Mauria* in the same article. Two of the species, *Mauria multiflora* C. Martius ex Bentham and *Mauria subbijuga* C. Martius ex Bentham, were later treated as synonyms of *Tapirira guianensis* Aublet by Engler (1876). However, Engler overlooked the third species of *Mauria*, *Mauria obtusa*, described by Bentham (1852: 16) in the same article. Later authors were also apparently unaware of Bentham's third *Mauria* species. The name *Mauria obtusa* is not listed in any of the editions of Index Kewensis or the Gray Card Index. In conclusion, the basionym *Mauria obtusa* has priority over the name *Tapirira marchandii*.

The syntypes of *Mauria obtusa*, Robert Schomburgk II 892 and Richard Schomburgk 1442, clearly agree morphologically with the other syntypes listed by Engler under the name *Tapirira marchandii*. These syntypes evidently belong in the genus *Tapirira*, not *Mauria*, because they are unisexual, the petals are imbricate, and the staminate pistillode and the pistil are both crowned by five styles. This is the typical condition of the flowers of *Tapirira*. *Mauria*, on the other hand, has bisexual flowers with a valvate corolla and a single style crowned by three sessile stigmas.

Bentham (1852) wrote that he was aware of the affinity of his three taxa of *Mauria* to *Tapirira guianensis*. (He actually published *M. obtusa* as "Mauria (Tapirioide) obtusa.") He probably misplaced these three species in *Mauria* instead of in *Tapirira* because of the incorrect fruit description and illustration in Aublet (1775). Aublet included a fruit from a different plant family in his description and illustrations of *Tapirira guianensis*.

The following is my proposed new combination and synonymy.

**Tapirira obtusa** (Bentham) Mitchell, comb. nov.  


**Tapirira pao-pombo** var. major was placed in synonymy by Engler (1876) in his description of *Tapirira marchandii*. I agree with Barfod's (1987) taxonomic decision that *T. peckoltiana* and *T. marchandii* are the same species.

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**Literature Cited**


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