

A New Combination in *Matelea* (Apocynaceae–Asclepiadoideae)

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ABSTRACT. *Chthamalia cuyabensis* is transferred to *Matelea cuyabensis* and is lectotypified.

Key words: Apocynaceae, Asclepiadoideae, *Chthamalia*, *Matelea*.

In the course of compiling the Asclepiadoideae for the *Prodromus Florae Matogrossensis* (ed. B. Dubs, Switzerland), a species attributed to the genus *Chthamalia* Decaisne (Apocynaceae–Asclepiadoideae; tribe Asclepiadeae, subtribe Gonolobinae) turned up. The genus *Chthamalia*, comprising eight species, was sunk by Woodson (1941) under *Matelea* Aublet, and Woodson (1941) combined the four North and Central American species, including the type species, *C. nummularia* Decaisne, under *Matelea*. The four Brazilian species were not treated by Woodson (1941).

The genus *Matelea*, with some 280 species, is one of the least known genera of Asclepiadoideae, and opinions diverge widely concerning the question whether *Matelea* is one large, variable genus, or whether several monophyletic genera are hidden within *Matelea*, or whether *Matelea* even has to be expanded to comprise the ca. 100 *Gonolobus* Michaux species as well. No molecular phylogeny is yet available, and only some, mostly geographically restricted, revisions have been carried out in the last decades (e.g., Stevens, 1985, 1988, 2001). In Brazil, from where ca. 70 species of *Matelea* s.l. are recorded, none of the four *Chthamalia* species has been mentioned in the literature lately. Nevertheless, Rapini (2001) cited *Chthamalia* as a synonym under *Matelea*, and there is no apparent morphological reason to reach a different conclusion. As the name *Chthamalia* has ceased to exist with the transfer of the type species to *Matelea* by Woodson (1941), it is necessary to combine *Chthamalia cuyabensis*, the only species recorded from Mato Grosso, to *Matelea cuyabensis* in order to have a valid name available for the *Prodromus Florae Matogrossensis*, which is about to be published. As there is, to our knowledge, no ongoing research on *Matelea* s.l. in Brazil, and as a new name would

need to be found (*Chthamalia* not being available anymore) if new results were to require the split of the species from *Matelea*, we consider it best practice to transfer the species in question to *Matelea*, while leaving the remaining three Brazilian species, for which no immediate need for a name is known, untouched for future research. *Chthamalia cuyabensis* was first described by Malme (1927), who considered it closely related to *C. majori* E. Fournier from São Paulo, from which it is said to differ by smaller flowers and the form of the leaves. Both characters may prove to be unreliable if more material comes to light, and it cannot be excluded that *C. cuyabensis* might constitute a subspecies, a variety, or even only a synonym of *C. majori*. However, currently available data do not permit such conclusions.

Matelea cuyabensis (Malme) Liede & Meve, comb. nov. Basionym: *Chthamalia cuyabensis* Malme, Ark. Bot. 21A(12): 22, t. 1, f. 2. 1927. TYPE: Brazil. Mato Grosso: Cuyabá, 12 Nov. 1902, G. O. A. N. Malme II 2562 (lectotype, designated here, G not seen).

The protologue is accompanied by an illustration of the habit, flower, and pollinarium.

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