

NOTES ON *STERCULIA* (*BRACHYCHITON*) *LURIDA*  
AND *DISCOLOR*.

BY J. H. MAIDEN AND E. BETCHE.

In a recent revision of the genus *Brachychiton*, Prof. A. Terracino\* reduces the ten species given in Bentham's *Flora Australiensis* to four, retaining in most cases the names of the *Flora* as varieties (see p. 160). We have not sufficient herbarium material of the Queensland species to express an opinion as to the correctness of all these reductions, but with regard to *S. lurida* and *discolor* our own observations coincide completely with those of Prof. Terracino, and we propose to unite them under Baron v. Mueller's name *discolor*. The only difference indicated in the *Flora Australiensis* is in the leaves, which are "angular and very shortly and irregularly 5- or 7-lobed and white underneath, with a very close tomentum" in *S. discolor*, and "deeply 5- or 7-lobed and pubescent underneath but not white" in *S. lurida*. The flowers and fruits appear to be exactly the same in both species. The difference in the leaves in the two extreme forms is so great that nothing short of the fact that we have seen both forms of leaves growing on the same tree could induce us to adopt Prof. Terracino's view of uniting the two species.

The tall trees of *S. lurida* in the Sydney Botanic Gardens are about 40 years old, and were probably planted shortly after Mr. Moore's discovery of the species in 1858, from seeds or young seedling plants brought by him from the original locality (Clarence River). All these old trees have now either completely changed

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\* Le specie de genere *Brachychiton*. *Bolletino del R. Orto Botanico di Palermo*. Anno 1. Fasc. ii. 1897.



into *S. discolor* or bear leaves of both forms, while young trees, raised from seeds of these trees, preserve completely the character of *S. lurida*. From the above we can only draw the conclusion that *S. lurida* is only the young\* state of *S. discolor*, and cannot even rank as a distinct variety, much less as a species.

Observations have been made only on cultivated plants; we invite observations made on plants in their natural habitats. We propound the following question:—

Have young plants of *S. discolor* ever been noticed with the foliage characteristic of this species (leaves angled or shortly lobed and white underneath)?

The two plants grow in the same situations; they were first collected together (by Moore) and described together (by Mueller, *Fragm.*, i. i. 1858).

*B. discolor*: foliis subcoriaceis, breviter 5-7 lobis, supra glabris, subtus tenuiter cinerascanti-velutinis. See also *Bot. Mag.* t. 6608.

*B. luridum*: foliis profunde quinquefidis herbaceis fere concoloribus parce pubescentibus. See also *Fragm.* ii. 177.

We are keeping the other species of *Sterculia* under observation.

Following is Prof. Terracino's suggested arrangement compared with those by Mueller and Bentham:—

A. TERRACINO.	F. v. M.'s CENSUS.	BENTH. FL. AUSTR. (AS <i>Sterculia</i> .)
<i>B. paradoxus</i> , Sch. & Endl.		
α. <i>typicus</i>	<i>B. paradoxus</i> , Schott.	<i>S. ramiflora</i> , Benth.
β. <i>Bidwilli</i>	<i>B. Bidwilli</i> , Hook.	<i>S. Bidwilli</i> , Hook.
γ. <i>discolor</i>	<i>B. discolor</i> , F.v.M.	<i>S. discolor</i> , F.v.M.
δ. <i>luridus</i>	<i>B. luridus</i> , C. Moore	<i>S. lurida</i> , F.v.M.
<i>B. acerifolius</i> , F.v.M.		
α. <i>typicus</i>	<i>B. acerifolius</i> , F.v.M.	<i>S. acerifolia</i> , Cunn.
β. <i>Gregorii</i>	<i>B. Gregorii</i> , F.v.M.	<i>S. diversifolia</i> , G. Don, var. ? <i>occidentalis</i> .

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\* Perhaps for this reason we must retain the name *discolor* for the double plant.

A. TERRACINO. F. v. M.'s CENSUS.		BENTH. FL. AUSTR. (AS <i>Sterculia</i> .)
<i>B. australis</i> , Schott.		
$\alpha$ . <i>typicus</i>	<i>B. platanoides</i> , R.Br.	<i>S. trichosiphon</i> , Benth.
$\beta$ . (?) <i>incanus</i>	<i>B. incanus</i> , R.Br.	<i>S. incana</i> , Benth.
<i>B. diversifolius</i> , G. Don.		
$\alpha$ . <i>typicus</i>	<i>B. populneus</i> , R.Br.	<i>S. diversifolia</i> , G. Don.
$\beta$ . <i>caudatus</i>	<i>B. diversifolius</i> , R.Br.	<i>S. caulata</i> , Hew.
Hybrid: <i>populneo B. populneo-acerifolius</i> ,		
$\times$ <i>acerifolius</i>	F.v.M.	
<i>B. rupestris</i> , Lindl.	<i>B. Delabechii</i> , F.v.M.	<i>S. rupestris</i> , Benth.



Maiden, J. H. and Betche, Ernst. 1898. "Notes on Sterculia (Brachychiton) lurida and discolor." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 23, 159–161.

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