

ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF CUT-LEAVED *TECOMA*

J. K. MAHESHWARI

Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India,
Sibpore, Howrah

The genus *Tecoma* Juss. emend. HBK. (Bignoniaceae) is represented in India by a single species, *T. stans* (Linn.) Juss. ex HBK. Nov. Gen. (ed. 4) 3: 144, 1818, said to be a native of South America. It is now very common in Indian gardens and is established as an escape in some parts of the country (Konkan and North Kanara, ex Cooke; Dharwar, Hohenacker 784; Pachmarhi Hills, ex Witt; Asirgarh, M. P., J. F. Duthie 3868, J. K. Maheshwari; Jubbulpur, M. P., R. S. Hole 228). The typical form has leaflets that are only toothed, but there is a variety with graceful foliage in which the leaflets are narrow and are cut almost to the midrib. This, a cut-leaved form of *Tecoma stans*, was named by Sweet (in Hort. Brit. ed. 1, 2: 284, 1826) *Tecoma incisa*, based on an unpublished *Bignonia incisa* ("of gardeners"). The name *Tecoma incisa* was originally published as a *nomen subnudum* and seems to have been validated with a description by Loudon (in Hort. Brit. 243, 1830). De Candolle (Prodr. 9: 224, 1845) examined Bertero's collection of this form from Guadeloupe in the West Indies and renamed it *Tecoma stans* var. *apiifolia* DC. This name has been adopted by Benthall (in Trees Calcutta 336, 1946). According to the Rules of Nomenclature, the earliest validly published name

for this plant is *Tecoma incisa* Sweet ex Loudon. The specific name *incisa* must be reinstated as a varietal epithet under *Tecoma stans*. The correct name of the cut-leaved form is, therefore, as follows:

Tecoma stans Juss. ex HBK. var. *incisa* (Sweet) Maheshwari, *comb. nov.* Basi. *Tecoma incisa* Sweet, Hort. Brit. ed. 1, 2: 284, 1826, *nomen subnudum*; Loudon, Hort. Brit. 243, 1830, non Johnston (1940). Syn. *Tecoma stans* var. *apiifolia* DC. Prodr. 9: 224, 1845; Benthall, Trees Calc. 336, 1946. *Stenolobium stans* D. Don var. *apiifolium* Seem. Jour. Bot. Lond. 1: 88, 1863; van Steenis, Rec. Trav. bot. néerl. 24: 906, 1927. *Bignonia incisa* Hortul.

Common name: Cut-leaved *Tecoma*.

An evergreen, ornamental shrub, about 3 m. high. Leaflets narrow, 4-10 × 1.5-2.5 cm., deeply cut to the midrib and almost pinnatifid. Flowers yellow.

A native of Tropical America from Argentina to Mexico and now widely distributed and cultivated in the tropics. According to Koorders (Exc. Fl. Java 3: 184, 1912), it is in Java very frequently found in parks and gardens as well as in India, Burma and Malaya (ex Herb. CAL et SING).