

NOTES ON INDIAN DESERT PLANTS 4—NEW NAMES AND COMBINATIONS

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Following new names and combinations have resulted during a study of the Flora of the Indian Desert. The basionyms of new combinations and the reasons for the new names are given.

Anticharis senegalensis (Walpers) Bhandari comb. nov. *Doratenthera senegalensis* Walp. Repert. 3: 305, 1844-45. *D. linearis* Benth. in DC. Prodr. 10: 347, 1846. *Anticharis linearis* (Benth.) Hochst. ex Aschers. in Montasb. Akad. Wiss. Ber. 882, 1866 (Syntype CAL, 318943, Cardofonum, 30.7.1839).

The earliest validly published name for this species is *Doratenthera senegalensis* Walpers (1844-45). Walpers based his species on the generic description of *Doratenthera* provided by Endlicher (Gen. Pl. 685, 1836-40). Endlicher in his turn based his new genus on a letter written by Bentham dated the 7th July 1838. De Candolle in 1846 described *Doratenthera linearis*, which was also based on the same type as *D. senegalensis* Walpers. Since *D. linearis* was validly published in the sense of the Code only in the year 1846, *D. senegalensis* Walpers has priority over it. The latter epithet, therefore, needs a new combination in the genus *Anticharis*.

Convolvulus auricomus (A. Rich.) Bhandari comb. nov. *C. congestus* R. Br. in Salt. Abyss. Ixiv: 1814 *nom. nud.* (non Spreng, 1824). *Evolvulus pilosus* Roxb., Fl. Ind. 2: 106, 1832 (non *C. pilosus* Roxb., 1814, nec Wichstr. 1827). *Convolvulus glomeratus* Choisy ex DC. Prodr. 9: 401, 1845 (non Thunb. 1792). *Ipomoea auricoma* A. Rich. Tent. Fl. Abyss. 2: 67, 1851; Baker et Rendle in Dyer's Fl. Trop. Afr. 4(2): 94, 1905. *Convolvulus arabicus* Hochst. ex Hallier f. in Bot. Jahrb. 18: 100, 1894.

The earliest name of this species i.e., *Convolvulus congestus* R. Br., was published without description and is, therefore, a *nom. nud.* *Evolvulus pilosus* Roxb., the next available name, cannot be used in the genus *Convolvulus*, since it would result in a latter homonym of three different species i.e., *C. pilosus* R. Br. 1810 (= *C. piliferus* Steud.), *C. pilosus* Roxb. 1814 [= *Ipomoea pilosa* (Roxb.) Sweet] and also *C. pilosus* Wichstr. 1827 (= *I. cissoides* Griseb.). *C. glomeratus* Choisy ex DC. (1845), the next available name, is also a latter homonym of *C. glomeratus* Thunb. (1792) and *C. glomeratus* Wall. (= *Argyrela cymosa* Sweet) and is therefore an illegitimate name in the sense of the Code. *Ipomoea auricoma* A. Rich., which has doubtfully been given in the synonymy of *C. glo-*

meratus Choisy [in Fl. Trop. Afr. 4(2): 94, 1905] is certainly conspecific with the latter species. Thanks to the courtesy of the Director, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, who sent me the photographs of the type sheets of *I. auricoma* A. Rich. The epithet '*auricomus*' which is still unoccupied, in the genus *Convolvulus* can, therefore, be used for this species and the correct name of the plant should be *C. auricomus* (A. Rich.) Bhandari comb. nov.

Convolvulus auricomus* var. *volubilis (C. B. Clarke) Bhandari comb. nov. *C. glomeratus* var. *volubilis* (C. B. Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 219, 1883). (non *C. volubilis* Brouss. ex Link. = *C. massoni* Dietr.).

C. blatteri Bhandari nom. nov. *C. densiflorus* Blatt. & Hall. in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 26: 545, 1919 (*Typolecto*, Blatter, 3515, Amarsagar, Jaiselmer, Blatt.). (*nom. illegit.*, non *C. densiflorus* Hook. & Arnot. 1827-28. = *Ipomoea umbellata* Linn.).

Blatter & Hallbergh's name is a latter homonym of *Convolvulus densiflorus* Hook. et Arnott (Bot. Beech. Voy. 303, 1827-28) and therefore illegitimate, to be neglected in accordance with the Code. Hooker and Arnott's plant is a synonym of *Ipomoea umbellata* Linn. No other specific epithet has been published for the present species and hence a new name *C. blatteri* is proposed to commemorate the pioneering work which Fr. Blatter did in this difficult terrain.

Diplocyclos palmatus (Linn.) Jeffrey var. *walkerii* (Chakravarty) Bhandari et Singh comb. nov. *Bryonopsis laciniosa* (Linn.) Naud. var. *walkerii* Chakravarty in Rec. bot. Surv. India 17(1): 138, 1959.

This variety has so far been reported only from Ceylon by Chakravarty (loc. cit.); an examination of a large number of sheets of *Bryonopsis laciniosa* in Blatter Herbarium reveals that the plant is common in W. India. It has also been collected from Mt. Abu.

Dipteracanthus patulus (Jacq.) Nees var. *alba* (Saxton) Bhandari comb. nov. *Ruellia patula* Jacq. var. *alba* Saxton in Rec. bot. Surv. India 6: 288, 1918.

Cleome gynandra (Linn.) Briq. var. *nana* (Blatt. & Hall.) Bhandari comb. nov. *Gynandropsis pentaphylla* Linn. var. *nana* Blatt. & Hall. in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 26: 221, 1918.

Commiphora wightii (Arnott) Bhandari comb. nov. *Balsemodendron wightii* Arnott in Ann. Nat. Hist. Soc. 3: 86, 1839. *B. roxburghii* Stocks in Journ.

As. Soc. Bomb. 2: 391, 1848 (*non* Arnott, 1839). *B. mukul* Hook. ex Stocks in Hook. Kew Journ 1: 259, 1848. *Balsamea mukul* Baill. Hist. Pl. 5: 295, 1874-75. *Commiphora mukul* Engl. in DC. Mon. Phan. 4: 26, 1883. *C. roxburghii* (Stocks) Engler in Pfam. ed. 2, 19A: 436, 1931; Santapau Fl. Saur. 1: 86, 1962.

This species is well known under the name *Commiphora mukul* (Hook. ex Stocks) Engl. or *Balsemodendron mukul* Hook. ex Stocks (1849). Recently, however, it has been shown that *B. roxburghii* Stocks (1848) is an earlier name and hence Santapau (1962) has followed this nomenclature and the correct nomenclature of the plant is *Commiphora roxburghii* (Stocks) Engler. However, *B. roxburghii* Stocks (1848) is a latter homonym of *B. roxburghii* Arnott (1839). (= *C. agallocha* Engler). In accordance with article 64(2) which states "... even if the earlier homonym is illegitimate or is

generally treated as a synonym on taxonomical grounds, the latter homonym must be rejected", the epithet '*roxburghii*' must not be used for this species. Even otherwise *Balsemodendron wightii* Arnott (1839) is the earliest validly published name of this taxon, and therefore it has priority over all other names and the plants should therefore be correctly named as *C. wightii* (Arnott) Bhandari comb. nov.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Dr. U. N. Chatterji, Prof. of Botany, University of Jodhpur for his keen interest and the herbarium facilities. I am particularly grateful to Dr. B. Tiagi for his encouragement and valuable suggestions. To Fr. H. Santapau, Director, Botanical Survey of India, I am obliged, for his critically going through the manuscript.