

CRITICAL NOTES ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF SOME MENISPERMACEAE

H. SANTAPAU

St. Xavier's College, Bombay

AND

K. P. JANARDHANAN

Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta

INTRODUCTION

In the botanical literature of India and of neighbouring countries many names in the family Menispermaceae are credited to John Miers in *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, series 2, 7: 33-45, 1851. The senior author, to cite but one example, in his *Flora of Khandala*, copying from Diels in Engler's *Das Pflanzenreich* vol. 46, 1910, gave the authority for *Tinospora cordifolia* as Miers, *loc. cit.* page 38. We have critically studied the literature on the subject, and find that according to the strict interpretation of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*, many names in the Menispermaceae must be credited, not to J. Miers but to others, particularly to J. D. Hooker and Th. Thomson.

The following is the list of the papers of John Miers on the family Menispermaceae:

1. "A few remarks on the Menispermaceae." *Ann. & Mag. nat. Hist.* ser. 2, 7: 33-45, 1851. In this paper Miers gives the description of several genera, which has been generally accepted as valid. As for specific names he does not make any valid combination, either because he does not make any combination at all, or because when he makes such a combination he gives no reference; all such names come under Art. 33 of the Code and must be treated as *Nomina Nuda*.

2. "On the Menispermaceae." *Ann.* ser. 3, 13: 1-15, 122-135, 315-323, 486-491, 1864; 14: 49-53, 97-103, 252-261, 363-374, 1865; 17: 128-138, 265-270, 1866; 18: 12-22, 1866; 19: 19-29, 84-95, 187-197, 319-330, 1867; 20: 11-20, 169-175, 260-266, 1867.

3. *Contributions to Botany*. Vol. 3 'containing a complete monograph of the Menispermaceae'. Pp. 1-402, pls. 88-154, 1864-1871.

Immediately after the publication of the first paper in 1851 the name of Miers became associated with many species of the Menispermaceae. Hooker and Thomson in *Flora Indica* (page 175, 1855)

write: "Mr. Miers' views as to the limits of species can only be gathered from the notes and remarks appended to his paper in Taylor's 'Annals', already referred to, the extreme brevity of which often make his meaning doubtful. In several cases ... we are satisfied that he regards as distinct, forms which are either certainly not so, or are so imperfectly known that their distinctness cannot be confidently asserted. In such cases we have not hesitated to dissent from his views, as we are deeply impressed with the importance of avoiding the addition of imperfectly-defined species to our lists. ... Several new species of Menispermaceae, in addition to those described for the first time in the following pages, exist in our own collections..."

ENUMERATION

Coscinium blumeum Hook. f. & Thoms. *Fl. Ind.* 179, 1855; Miers in *Ann. & Mag. nat. Hist.* ser. 3, 13: 129, 1864 & *Contrib.* 3: 23, 1864-1871.

Limacia iriandra (Colebr.) Hook. f. & Thoms. *Fl. Ind.* 188, 1855; Miers, *Contrib.* 112. *Cocculus triandrus* Colebr. in *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond.* 13: 64, 1822. *Menispermum triandrum* Roxb. *Fl. Ind.* 3: 816, 1832.

Here again the combination has often been attributed to Miers, 1851, but wrongly in the sense of the Code. Miers simply stated that *Menispermum triandrum* Roxb. belonged to *Limacia*, subgenus *Stereoclea*, but did not make the combination.

Parabaena sagittata Miers (in *Annals* ser. 2, 7: 39, 1851, nomen.) ex Hook. f. & Thoms. *Fl. Ind.* 181, 1855; Miers, *Contrib.* 57, t. 98.

In 1851 Miers published the name *P. sagittata* as a bare name without any description or reference; validity of the specific name dates from 1855, when Hooker and Thomson published a description of the species, attributing the name, however, to Miers. The citation after *P. sagittata* must, then

be 'Miers ex Hook. f. & Thoms.' or simply 'Hook. f. & Thoms.'

Tinomiscium petiolare Hook. f. & Thoms. Fl. Ind. 205, 1855; Miers, Contrib. 45, t. 94.

Miers in Annals ser. 2, 7: 44, 1851 wrote: "*Tinomiscium* is constituted for three plants of peculiar habit: the *Cocculus petiolaris* Wall. (Cat. n. 4964), *Cocculus coriaceus*, Hook., both from Penang; and a species from Java (Zollinger, n. 745). All these species present only male flowers so that it is yet uncertain to which tribe they can be referred; but from their peculiar habit and the larger size and structure of their flowers, they more resemble the *Heteroclinieae*." As the practice was until recently, this was considered sufficient to attribute the combination *T. petiolare* to Miers; this practice has been specifically ruled out by the Code, Art. 33.

Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Hook. f. & Thoms. Fl. Ind. 184, 1855; Dalz. & Gibs. Bombay Fl. 5, 1861; Miers in Annals ser. 3, 13: 317, 1864 & Contrib. 31, t. 91, 1864-1871. *Menispermum cordifolium* Willd. Sp. Pl. 4: 826, 1806; Roxb. Fl. Ind. 3: 811, 1832. *Cocculus cordifolius* DC. Syst. 1: 518, 1817 & Prodr. 1: 97, 1824; Wight, Icon. tt. 485 & 486, 1841.

Miers in 1851 wrote: "*Tinospora* contains eleven species, most of which are already known; it is a well marked genus, and I have complete details of its structure: the following may be referred to it: *Cocculus cordifolius*, DC.; *C. convolvulaceus*, DC.; *C. crispus* DC.; *C. Malabaricus* DC.; *C. lacunosus*, DC.; *C. tomentosus*, Colebr.; *C. glaucus*, DC.; *C. flavescens*, DC.; *C. Bakis*, A. Rich." (Annals ser. 2, 7: 38). Miers did not make any combination in the sense prescribed by Art. 33 of the Code. The name *Tinospora cordifolia* must, then, be credited to Hooker and Thomson, who did make the combination for the first time in 1855.

T. crispa (Linn.) Hook. f. & Thoms. Fl. Ind. 183, 1855; Miers in Ann. & Mag. nat. Hist. ser. 3, 13: 319, 1864. *Menispermum crispum* Linn. Sp. Pl. ed. 2, 1468, 1763. *Cocculus crispus* DC. Syst. 1: 521, 1817 & Prodr. 1: 97, 1824.

T. glabra (Burm. f.) Merr. in J. Arn. Arbor. 19: 340, 1938 & 20: 268, 1939. *Menispermum glabrum* Burm. f. Fl. Ind. 216, 1768. *Cocculus coriaceus* Bl. Bijdr. 25, 1825. *Tinospora uliginosa* Miers, Contrib. 3: 35, 1871; Fl. Brit. India 1: 97, 1872. *T. crispa* Diels in Engl. Pflanzenreich 46: 142, 1910, non Miers 1864, nec *Menispermum crispum* Linn. 1763.

T. sinensis (Lour.) Merr. in Sunyatsenia 1: 193, 1934 & in Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc. Philad. n.s. 24: 158, 1935. *Campylus sinensis* Lour. Fl. Coch. 113, 1790. *Menispermum malabaricum* Lamk. Encycl. 4: 96, 1797. *Tinospora malabarica* (Lamk.) Hook. f. & Thoms. Fl. Ind. 183, 1855; Miers in Annals ser. 3, 13: 318, 1863 & Contrib. 32.

T. tomentosa (Roxb. ex Colebr.) Hook. f. & Thoms. Fl. Ind. 183, 1855; Miers in Annals ser. 3, 13: 318, 1864 & Contrib. 33. *Cocculus tomentosus* Roxb. ex Colebr. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. 13: 59, 1822. *Menispermum tomentosum* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 3: 193, 1832.

Cocculus mollis Wall. (Cat. No. 4973, 1832, nom. nud.) ex Hook. f. & Thoms. Fl. Ind. 193, 1855.

Pycnarrhena planiflora Hook. f. & Thoms. Fl. Ind. 206, 1855. *P. pleniflora* Miers, Contrib. 3: 353, t. 141, 1871.

In Hooker's *Flora of British India* (1: 106, 1872) Hooker and Thomson state that Wallich's *Cocculus planiflorus* (Cat. No. 4961, 1832, nom. nud.) was an error for *C. pleniflorus*; but when these authors published the name *Pycnarrhena planiflora*, they followed the original spelling of Wallich; Miers in Contrib. 3: 353, corrected the spelling to *pleniflora*. Since both names are correct in Latin, it does look as if the original spelling should be preserved.

Cyclea peltata (Lamk.) Hook. f. & Thoms. Fl. Ind. 201, 1855 & in Fl. Brit. Ind. 1: 104, 1872. *Menispermum peltatum* Lamk. Encycl. 4: 96, 1797. *Cocculus peltatus* DC. Syst. 1: 516, 1817 & Prodr. 1: 96, 1824. *Cyclea burmanni* Hook. f. & Thoms. ll. cc.; Miers, Contrib. 3: 239, t. 121, 1871.