

SOME TAXONOMIC AND NOMENCLATURAL NOTES

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ABSTRACT

A case of misapplication of the "Rule" of orthographic variants.

S.S. Bennet & K.C. Sahni [The Indian Forester 103, 6(1977)387-388] considered the specific epithets "thompsonii" and "thomsonii" orthographic variants, which they are certainly not. The letter "p" indicates a different etymology of the words and botanically : one species is a plant from Guam [*Maytenus thompsonii* (Merr.) Fosberg] named after a certain Mr. Thompson, the other an Indian-Burmese plant [*Maytenus thomsonii* (Kurz) Raju & Babu], named after a gentleman by the name of Thomson. The plant descriptions are based on different type specimens.

According to a verbal information, to the orthographic variant Rule, something has been added about the state of confusing of the names. This is very unlucky, as it introduces a subjective argument, so anxiously avoided in the Rules. What is confusing? For an European ear thomson and thompson are not confusing, for the Indian ear they are perhaps. For me numerous chinese plant epithets, based on personal names, are extremely confusing, but they are certainly not for the Chinese ears.

Conclusion : The new name of Bennet & Sahni [*Maytenus kurzii*] is superfluous.

An incorrect name of "langsats"

Sahni & Bennet [Indian Forester 100,3

(1974) 202] in their article : Correct botanical name of "langsats" provided a completely wrong name for the "langsats", based on a wrong assumption of Merrill and even created a confusing wrong varietal name.

This is an excellent example of the pitfalls of automatic transfer, so strongly criticized in the later issues of Taxon.

The authors missed my printed article, where I have referred *Melia parasitica* Osbeck to *Dysoxylum* as *D. parasiticum* (Osbeck) Kosterm., after having studied myself the type material of Osbeck in Sweden. This material consists of inflorescences, which could be easily referred to the common *Dysoxylum cauliflorum*. They have nothing in common with *Lansium* (or *Aglaia* to which I have referred *Lansium*).

The varietal name (warbled as *Lansium paraciticum* var. *aequem* ; sic.) is, moreover a tentative name ("in case the species is considered a variety") and hence invalid.

The discussion, derived from my monography of *Lansium*, as presented by Sahni & Bennet, is very confusing.

Cleistocalyx nervosum (DC.) Kosterm., comb. nov. (Myrtaceae)

Syzygium nervosum DC., Prodr. 3 (1828) 260; Mém. Myrtac. 2 (1842) t. 16 (exclud. interpretation of the genus, p. 4); Thwaites,

Enum. Pl. Zeyl. (1864) 417; Ashton in Dassanayake & Fosberg (eds), Revised Fl. Ceylon 2 (1981) 446; Kostermans, Quart. J. Taiwan Mus. 34(1982) 121; Panigrahi & Mishra, Taxon 34(2) (1985) 299.—Typus : Herb. Roxburgh anno 1816 (DC.).

Eugenia operculata Roxburgh, Hort. Bengal. (1813) 37 (nomen); Fl. Ind., ed. 2, 2 (1832) 486; Wight, Icon. (1842) t. 552, text 2(3) : (4) (1843); Duthie in Hooker f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 2(1879) 498; Trimen, Handb. Fl. Ceylon 2(1894) 179; Koorders & Valetton, Bijdr. Kennis Boomsorten Java 6(1900) 551; Atlas 3(1915) fig. 503; Koorders, Exkurs. Fl. Java, Dikot. (1912) 670; Haines, Bot. Bihar & Or. 2 (1922) 378; Murata, Acta Phytotax. Geobot. 25(1973) 108; Kostermans, *l.c.*; Panigrahi & Mishra, *l.c.*—*Syzygium operculatum* (Roxb.) Niedenzu in Engl. & Prantl, Nat. Pfl. fam. 31(7) (1893) 85; Gamble, Fl. Madras (1919) 481; Alston in Trimen, Handb. Fl. Ceylon 6 (Suppl.) (1931) 115; Ashton, *l.c.* 446; Kostermans, *l.c.*, Panigrahi & Mishra, *l.c.*—*Cleistocalyx operculatus* (Roxb.) Merrill & Perry, J. Arnold Arb. 18(1937) 337, pl. 215, f. 41-48; 19 (1938) 246; Mooney, Suppl. Fl. Bihar & Or. (1950) 66; Hara in Hara & Williams, Enum. fl. Pl. Nepal 2(1979) 168; Kostermans, *l.c.* Panigrahi & Mishra, *l.c.*—Typus : Herb. Roxburgh in Herb. Lamb., anno 1816 (BM).

Syzygium polyanthum Auct. (non Wight) Thwaites, Enum., *l.c.* 116; Kostermans, *l.c.*—C.P. 2801 (PDA).

Calyptranthes caryophyllifolia Moon,

Catal. (1824) 39; Thwaites, *l.c.*; Kostermans, *l.c.*

Eugenia clausa C.B. Robinson, Philipp. J. Sci., Bot. 4(1909) 308; Kostermans, *l.c.*,

Eugenia divaricata-cymosa Hayata, Icon. Pl. Formos. (1913) 118; Merr. & Perry, *l.c.*; Kostermans, *l.c.* 121.

Eugenia holtzei F. v. Mueller, Austral. J. Pharm. June 1886 (*cf.* Bot. Centralbl. 2 : 148. 1886); Merr. & Perry, *l.c.*; Kostermans, *l.c.*

Syzygium nodosum Miquel, Fl. Ind. Batav. 1(1) (1855) 447; Merr. & Perry, *l.c.*; Kostermans, *l.c.*

Syzygium angkolanum Miquel, *l.c.* 448; Merr. & Perry, *l.c.*; Kostermans, *l.c.*

Calyptranthes mangiferifolia Hance, Walp. Ann. 2(1851-52) 629; Merr. & Perry, *l.c.* 246; Kostermans, *l.c.*

Panigrahi & Mishra in their article in Taxon, missed my Revision of Ceylon Myrtaceae in Quart. J. Taiwan Museum (1982).

By an oversight I missed the earlier specific epithet of *Cleistocalyx operculatus*, although I mentioned it in synonymy.

I do not agree with Schmid to include *Cleistocalyx* in *Syzygium* (*cf.* my revision).

There is still another name, earlier than that of de Candolle, to be considered : *Calyptranthes caryophyllifolia* Moon, Catalogue of 1824.

Moon's Catalogue names (or part of them) are considered valid by some botanists, by others not.

I am not taking sides in this matter, for the time being.