

STUDIES IN *JUSTICIA* LINN.—I(i) Status of *Justicia gingiana* Sebastine & Ramamurthy.

A study of the plant specimens of *Justicia gingiana* Seb. & Ramam. present in MH and CAL, and a review of literature pertaining to the same, in addition to an examination of the 'TYPE photograph' of *Adhatoda beddomei* C. B. Cl. kindly sent by the Director, Kew Herbarium (K), England, have conclusively proven that the two species are conspecific. This can be seen by the following table of characters:

<i>Adhatoda beddomei</i> C. B. Cl.	<i>Justicia gingiana</i> Seb. & Ramam.
1. Inflorescences axillary, rather small, up to 4 cm long.	1. Inflorescences axillary, rather small, up to 4 cm long.
2. Bracts 2×0.5 cm.	2. Bracts 2×0.5 cm.
3. Flowers 2×0.5 cm.	3. Flowers 2×0.5 cm.
4. Ovary glabrous but for a few hairs at top.	4. Ovary glabrous but for a few hairs at top.
5. Pollen prolate, 15×9.7 μ, 3-colporate with 6 pseudocolpi.	5. Pollen prolate, 15×9.7 μ, 3-colporate with 6 pseudocolpi.

The citations may therefore be written as follows:

Adhatoda beddomei C. B. Cl. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 540. 1885; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 6: 1982. 1924. *Justicia gingiana* Seb. & Ramam. in Bull. bot. Surv. Ind. 6: 99. 1964 (1965), syn. nov.

Exsicc.: No locality given, 1873, R. H. Beddome s. n., (Acc. No. MH 39397); Gingee R. F., South Arcot Dt., Tamilnadu, 22-3-1961, Sebastine & Ramamurthy MH 12360; Sengamal Estate, Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli Dt., Tamilnadu, 9-2-1972, B. D. Sharma MH 40062.

N. S. Mooss (1953) in his book, *Ayurvedic Flora Medica*, has discussed the identity of the plant called 'vasaca' and states that only *Adhatoda beddomei* C. B. Cl. is the true 'vasaca'.

(ii) Status of *Justicia khasiana* C. B. Cl.

The recent works of Ridley (1925), Bremekamp (1948), Bakhuizen Brink, Jr. (1965), Santapau (1967), among others, reveal that the genus *Justicia* Linn. needs to be split up into several genera, supporting the treatment of Nees Esenbeck (1832). Thus, *Justicia khasiana* C. B. Cl. is appropriately treated under *Rostellularia* Reinchenb. The following new combination, therefore, becomes necessary:

Rostellularia khasiana (C. B. Cl.) Ellis, *comb. nov.* *Justicia khasiana* C. B. Cl. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 537. 1885; van Steenis in Bull. bot. Gard. Buit. ser. 3. 17: 395-397. 1948.

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