



Alphonse de Candolle's *Mémoire sur la famille des Anonacées*: date of publication and typification

I. M. TURNER

Research Associate, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, UK and Singapore Botanic Gardens.
E-mail: turner187@btinternet.com

Abstract

The *Mémoire sur la famille des Anonacées* by Alphonse de Candolle is an important work on Annonaceae. The paper is discussed, the date of publication is considered and typification of the species described from Nathaniel Wallich's collections from Burma is clarified. No evidence has been found that the *Mémoire* was published before 1832, and most likely it was after March of that year. Thirteen of the species from Burma are newly lectotypified. A few nomenclatural matters relating to De Candolle's publication are discussed with the names *Uvaria ovata*, *Uvaria macrocarpa*, *Porcelia macrocarpa*, *Uvaria musaria* and *Rollinia dolabripetala* being highlighted. The transfer of *Unona polycarpa* to the genus *Annickia* has not been validly published as the basionym citation was in error. The problem is remedied in the current publication.

Key words: Annonaceae, Burma, nomenclature, synonymy, typification

Introduction

In 1828, Alphonse L.P.P. de Candolle (1806–1893), a Swiss French-law student and son of well-known botanist Augustin Pyramus de Candolle, visited London (De Candolle & Radcliffe-Smith 1981). During his stay, Nathaniel Wallich of the East India Company arrived in London from Calcutta with an enormous collection of herbarium specimens (transported in 30 large crates) from India and other parts of Asia. Alphonse de Candolle met Wallich, and the question of the De Candolles in Geneva receiving duplicate material from the collection of the East India Company was discussed. Before material could be distributed a vast effort of sorting and cataloguing was required; a task made even greater by the decision of the East India Company to allow Wallich to incorporate further large collections already in London. For the next four years, Wallich was very busy in London sorting the specimens and writing out a list of these in taxonomic sequence, which was lithographed and circulated (Wallich 1828–1849), as well as writing and preparing for publication his *Plantae Asiaticae Rariores* that was handsomely illustrated (Wallich 1830–1832). Wallich was helped in his task by many eminent botanists and, in April 1830, Alphonse de Candolle returned to London to offer assistance (working hard for four months) and doubtless to improve chances of specimens being sent to Geneva. It was agreed that material of at least 16 families would be sent to A.P. de Candolle, and Alphonse would study Campanulaceae, Myrsinaceae, Bignoniaceae and Urticaceae. In addition there was a proposal by Wallich that Alphonse should work on a flora of Burma. Wallich had been to Burma as part of a mission from the Supreme Government of British India to the Court of the Kingdom of Ava (Crawford 1829). The mission had arrived in Rangoon in August 1826. It included Wallich and his assistant from the Calcutta Botanic Garden, William Gomez. They made many collections during the trip to Ava, and the subsequent tour of recently acquired Company territories in Martaban and Tenasserim. Not surprisingly, Wallich felt the collections were sufficient to produce the first flora of Burma, but both he and Alphonse de Candolle ultimately proved too busy to find time to bring this project to fruition.