



Correspondence

Sorbus megacarpa, a new combination in Chinese Rosaceae

XIN CHEN¹ & YUNFEI DENG²

¹ College of Forest Resources and Environment, Nanjing Forestry University, Nanjing, 210037, People's Republic of China; e-mail: chenxin@njfu.com.cn

² Key Laboratory of Plant Resources Conservation and Sustainable Utilization, South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Science, Guangzhou, 510650, People's Republic of China; e-mail: yfdeng@scbg.ac.cn (author for correspondence)

The genus *Sorbus* Linnaeus (1753: 477) in broad sense consists of about 250 species mainly distributed in the temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere with 67 species in China (Phipps *et al.* 1990, Lu & Spongberg 2003, Kalkman 2004).

Pleiosorbus Zhou & Wu (2000: 383) was established as monospecific genus with the single species *P. megacarpa* Zhou & Wu (2000: 384) from Mêdog Xian, Xizang, China. Lu & Ku (2002) discussed the status of *Pleiosorbus* and concluded that *Pleiosorbus* is synonymous with *Sorbus*, and that the new combination *Sorbus megacarpa* would likely to be confusable with *S. megalocarpa* Rehder (1915: 266), making *Sorbus megacarpa* as later homonym of that name. They thus proposed a new name, *S. medogensis* Lu & Ku (2002: 475) for this taxon in *Sorbus*. Aldasoro *et al.* (2004) correctly indicated that the epithet “*megacarpa*” is not confusable with “*megalocarpa*” and reduced *Pleiosorbus megacarpa* to *Sorbus megalocarpa*. However, this species can be easily distinguished from the latter by the deciduous sepals in fruit (Lu & Spongberg 2003). According to Article 52 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (McNeill *et al.* 2006), the name *Sorbus medogensis* is an illegitimate name. The new combination *Sorbus megacarpa* is therefore proposed below.

Sorbus megacarpa (Li H. Zhou & C.Y. Wu) Xin Chen & Y.F. Deng, *comb. nov.* *Pleiosorbus megacarpa* Zhou & Wu (2000: 384). *Sorbus medogensis* Lu & Ku (2002: 475), *nom. illeg. superfl.* Type:—CHINA. Xizang: Mêdog Xian, Hanmi, 2100 m, 27 October 1992, H. Sun, Z.K. Zhou & H.Y. Yü 860 (holotype KUN!).

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Priority Academic Program Development of Jiangsu Higher Education Institutions (PAPD) and the Scientific Research Foundation for Postgraduate from Nanjing Forestry University to Chen.

References

- Aldasoro, J.J., Aedo, C., Garmendia, F.M., de la Hoz, F.P. & Navarro, C. (2004) Revision of *Sorbus* subgenera *Aria* and *Torminaria* (Rosaceae-Maloideae). *Systematic Botany Monographs* 69: 1–148.
- Kalkman, C. (2004) Rosaceae. In: Kubitzki, K. (ed.) *The Families and Genera of Vascular Plants* 6. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, pp. 343–386.
- Linnaeus, C. (1753) *Species Plantarum* 1. Impensis Laurentii Salvii, Stockholm, 560 pp.
- Lu, L.T. & Ku, T.C. (2002) *Pleiosorbus* is united with *Sorbus* (Rosaceae). *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 40: 475–476.
- Lu, L.T. & Spongberg, S.A. (2003) *Sorbus*. In: Wu, Z.Y., Raven, P. & Hong, D.Y. (eds.) *Flora of China* 9. Science Press,