



Paralasianthus (Rubiaceae), a new genus from Southeast Asia

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Abstract

The new genus *Paralasianthus* is described from South-East Asia. Five species are recognised in the genus, four of which required new combinations, *P. brevipes*, *P. dichotomus*, *P. lowianus* and *P. hainanensis*, and one is described as a new species, *P. zhengyanus*. A key to the species is presented.

Key words: *Paralasianthus*, new genus, Rubiaceae, South East Asia

Introduction

The circumscription of *Lasianthus* Jack (1823: 125) has been modified by different authors, especially with regards to the number of ovary locules or pyrenes (Zhu *et al.* 2012). Jack (1823) described *Lasianthus* with a 4-locular ovary and a single, erect, basal ovule in each locule, which normally develops into a drupe with 4 pyrenes. Based on Malesian species Blume (1826) expanded Jack's delimitation and defined *Lasianthus* as having 4–9-locular ovaries and drupes with 4–9 pyrenes. Korthals (1851) established *Mephitidia* subgen. *Dysosmia* (Korthals 1851: 224) based on a Javan species, *M. dichotoma* Korthals (1851: 224), which had a 2-locular ovary and a compressed, 2-pyrenate drupe with a thin wall. Miquel (1859) raised it to generic rank as *Dysosmia* (Korthals 1851: 224) Miquel (1859: 314), and returned *Lasianthus* Jack to Blume's definition. Boerlage reduced *Dysosmia* in synonymy with *Saprosma* (Boerlage 1891: 106). Baillon (1880) included the African genus *Saldinia* A. Richard ex de Candolle (1830: 483) into *Lasianthus* Jack, as a subgenus. *Saldinia* has a 2-locular ovary, which develops into a 1-pyrenate drupe with a hard wall. Baillon's classification was not used in the treatments of Asian *Lasianthus* by later authors. However, Bremekamp proposed the new combination *L. furcatus* (Miquel 1857: 252) Bremekamp (1957: 94), based on *Canthium furcatum* Miquel (1857: 252), and synonymized *Saprosma dichotomum* (Korthals 1851: 224) Boerlage (1891:142) with *L. furcatus* (Miquel) Bremekamp (1957: 94). *Dysosmia* Korthals (1851: 224) was again returned to *Lasianthus* because its type is *Saprosma dichotomum*. Bremekamp restored *Saldinia* and redefined *Lasianthus* as having 2 or more locules per ovary and drupes with 2 or more pyrenes with a relatively soft wall (compared with *Saldinia*). In revisions of *Lasianthus* for Southeast Asia (Zhu 2001), East Asia (Zhu 2002) and the Malesian region (Zhu *et al.* 2012), *Lasianthus* was defined as having a 3–9-locular ovary and drupes or pyrenes with a thick wall.

A group of closely-related Asian species, which are glabrous plants with leaves with looped venation, with ovaries commonly 2-locular, and drupes with 2 thin-walled pyrenes, have been included in several different genera. Some of them were treated as *Lasianthus*, some as *Saprosma* and others as *Amaracarpus*. This group of species does not match *Lasianthus*, as they normally have 2-pyrenate drupes with a thin wall. They are separated from *Saprosma* by the lack of conspicuous colleters at the base inside of the stipules and bracts (except very minute ones), petioles without articulation, and leaves with looped venation. They differ from *Amaracarpus* in being glabrous plants, having stipules without setae, bracteoles neither connate nor bifid, not forming a compact with stipules, and reduced leaves. This group of species thus has a combination of characters that separates it from similar genera; therefore, a new genus, *Paralasianthus* H. Zhu, is here proposed to accommodate this group of species.

5. *Paralasianthus hainanensis* (Merrill) H. Zhu, *comb. nov.*

Basionym:—*Lasianthus hainanensis* Merrill (1922: 355). *Saprosma merrillii* Lo (1993: 15). Type:—CHINA. Hainan, Five Finger Mt., s.d., *F.A. McClure 8569* (holotype not found; isotypes SCBI!, US (00129845))

Distribution—China (Hainan).

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Identification list

The numbers following the collections are the species numbers as given below and in the taxonomic treatment of the species above. Specimens cited here are in Leiden except two where the acronym codes of a herbarium are indicated in brackets.

Paralasianthus:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 = <i>P. dichotomus</i> | 2 = <i>P. zhengyianus</i> |
| 3 = <i>P. brevipes</i> | 4 = <i>P. lowianus</i> |
| 5 = <i>P. hainanensis</i> | |

- Beusekom *et al.* 3301: 1; 890: 4; 872: 4; 2200: 3—Blume s.n.: 1—Boeea 6209: 4—BW (Indonesia) 13585: 1; BW13574: 1; BW10652: 1; BW10661: 1; BW10680: 1.
- Clemens *et al.* 1218: 1; 1063: 1; 1544: 1.
- Danser 5877: 1—De Vriese s.n.: 1.
- Hallier 350: 1—Hardial *et al.* 373: 4.
- Iwatsuki *et al.* T14605: 4.
- Junghuhn s.n.: 1.
- KEP-FRI series 22139: 4; 0793: 4; 13235: 4; 5655: 3; 023066: 4; 16056: 4;—Kerr 15942: 4—King's collector 2840: 4;—Kostermans 1620: 1; 1047: 1—Krukoff 4077: 4.
- Lörzing 1830: 1—LAE 58698: 1—Larsen *et al.* 46310 (AAU): 1; 46310: 1; 33530: 4; 32822: 4; 45981 (AAU): 4;—Laumonier TFB4317: 1—Ledermann 9552: 1—Lei 539: 5; 852: 5.
- Maxwell 81-136: 4; 77-174: 4.
- NGF41291:1—Niyomdham *et al.* 1430: 3
- Popta 1507: 1—Pullen 1536: 1.
- Ramlan 89: 1—Ramos & Edano 38840: 2.
- Van Royen & Sleumer 5739:1.
- Schlechter 18971: 1; 16951: 1;—Schmutz 5856: 1; 5886: 1—Stone 11055: 4.
- Tagawa *et al.* T4714: 4.
- Van Ooststroom 14062: 1—Verheijen 4781a: 1—Vinas & Nagari UPNG7609: 1.