



Two new combinations in *Persicaria* sect. *Echinocaulon* (Polygonaceae: Persicarieae)

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Persicaria (Linnaeus 1753: 360) Miller (1754) is a monophyletic genus including about 150 species mainly distributed in the northern temperate regions but also extends to tropical regions (Brandbyge 1993). The sect. *Echinocaulon* (Meisner 1832: 58) Gross (1913: 27), which is characterized in having recurved prickles on stems, petioles, and abaxial surfaces of major leaf veins, often scandent habit and hastate or sagittate leaf base (Galasso *et al.* 2009, Park 1988), was traditionally placed under *Polygonum* Linnaeus (1753: 360) (see e.g., Meisner 1856, Bentham & Hooker 1880, Dammer 1893, Steward 1930, Tutin *et al.* 1991, Li 1998, Li *et al.* 2003). On the basis of recent molecular studies (e.g., Kim & Donoghue 2008a, 2008b, Galasso *et al.* 2009, Sanchez *et al.* 2009, 2011), as well as morphological and anatomical investigations (Haraldson 1978, Ronse Decraene & Akeroyd 1988, Ronse Decraene *et al.* 2000), the taxon *Echinocaulon* has been confirmed to be placed in *Persicaria*.

Persicaria sect. *Echinocaulon* contains about 21 species and 4 varieties and it is mainly distributed in Eastern-Asia (Park 1988). Many combinations were already proposed, such as *Persicaria stelligera* (Chamisso 1833: 131) Galasso (2009: 136), *P. rubricaulis* (Chamisso 1833: 130) Galasso (2009: 136), *P. brachypoda* (Baker 1883: 239) Galasso (2009: 136) and *P. clarkei* (Park 1986: 217) Galasso (2009: 136). Despite this, two names have not yet still transferred and new combinations are necessary. Data about types and distribution as well as taxonomical notes are also provided.

Persicaria subsagittata (De Wildeman) S. F. Chen et B. Li, *comb. et stat. nov.*

Bas.: *Polygonum pedunculare* Wallich ex Meisner (1832: 58) var. *subsagittatum* De Wildeman (1930: 107) ≡ *Polygonum subsagittatum* C. W. Park (1986: 218).

Type:—CONGO. Fendula (Nyakolonge), 1928, *H.Scaetta* 641 (holotype, BR-0000008975553!, image available at <http://www.br.fgov.be/RESEARCH/COLLECTIONS/HERBARIUM/zoomifyimaging.php?filename=0000008975553&herbarium=BR>).

Distribution:—*Persicaria subsagittata* mainly occurs in Eastern-Africa (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda).

Note:—This taxon had been originally described as a variety of *Polygonum pedunculare* Wallich ex Meisner (1832: 58). Park (1988) pointed out that the two taxa obviously differs each other by their inflorescences structure (terminal branches as a very loose interrupted panicle of 4–7-flowered fascicles in *P. subsagittata* vs. dense panicle of many-flowered fascicles in *P. dichotoma*). On the other hand, *P. subsagittata* appears to be morphological similar to *P. praetermissa* (Hooker 1886: 47) Hara (1966: 73) concerning many characters, such as the linear-lanceolate to lanceolate leaf blades with weakly hastate to sagittate bases, the scarious and cylindrical ocreae with oblique apex, the inflorescence branches terminated by a very loose interrupted panicle of 4–7-flowered fascicles, and the dull and rugose achenes. Anyway, *P. subsagittata* can be easily distinguished from *P. praetermissa* by stems, leaf blades and inflorescences covering dense minute 2–4-rayed tufted hairs, and sparse to dense glandular hairs, and by its biconvex achenes.