



Reinstatement and lectotypification of *Bridelia fordii* (Phyllanthaceae)

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Abstract

Bridelia fordii, originally described from China in 1894, often treated as a synonym of *B. retusa*. Upon examining the types and other related specimens, we conclude that the former is easily distinguishable from the latter and the former should be accepted as an independent species. Our previous molecular evidence also supports this conclusion. We further designate the lectotype of *B. fordii* in this study.

Key words: Brideliaceae, China, Reinstatement, Taxonomy

Introduction

Bridelia Willdenow (1806: 978) belongs to tribe Brideliaceae Müller Argoviensis (1864: 324), family Phyllanthaceae Martynov (1820: 369) (Hoffmann *et al.* 2006). It consists of about 60 species of trees, shrubs, or rarely scramblers that are disjunctly distributed in tropical Africa, Asia and Australia (van Welzen & Esser 2007, Li & Dressler 2008). *Bridelia* can be distinguished from its close relative, the genus *Cleistanthus* Hooker ex Planchon (in Hooker 1848: 779), primarily by its drupaceous fruit and features of leaf venation (Dressler 1996).

Seven species of *Bridelia* were recognized in *Flora of China* (Li & Dressler 2008), in which the name *B. fordii* Hemsley (in Forbes & Hemsley 1894: 419) was reduced to a synonym of *B. retusa* (Linnaeus) A. Jussieu (1824: 109). In our taxonomic revision of the Chinese Phyllanthaceae, we found that the two species can be easily distinguished from each other and *B. fordii* should be reinstated from a synonym. Results from our previous phylogenetic study of the genus *Bridelia* also support this conclusion (Li *et al.* 2009).

Taxonomic treatment

Bridelia fordii Hemsley (in Forbes & Hemsley 1894: 419). Type:—CHINA. Guangdong [“Kwangtung”]. *C. Ford* 254 (K-000254054!; lectotype, here designated; isolectotype: P-00118220!). Remaining syntypes:—CHINA. Guangdong. *C. Ford* 249 (K-000254055!; P-00118221!).

Trees, up to 15 m tall; dioecious; bark dust color; branches sage green. Leaf blade obovate, or sometimes oblong, 8–22 × 4–13 cm, papery, base obtuse, rounded or shallowly cordate, apex rounded or truncate, with a short acumen, or rarely emarginate; lateral veins 13–19 pairs, elevated abaxially, subparallel, reticulate veins prominent, anastomosing lateral veins; petiole ca. 1.2 cm long, slightly stout; stipule caduceous, but linear stipular traces persistent at lateral base of petiole; pedicel ca. 1 mm long. Inflorescences 3–9-spiked, grouped into panicles at apex of branches, 10–20 cm long; bracts ovate-triangular, 2.5–3 mm long. Male flowers small, yellow-green, sepals oblong, ca. 2 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide basally; petals obovate, ca. 1 mm long, membranous, 3–5-toothed apex; anthers broadly ovoid; rudimentary ovary terete, apex undivided; disk cup-shaped. Female flowers: sepals oblong, ca. 2 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide basally; petals