



ISSN: 2348-1900

Plant Science Today

<http://www.plantsciencetoday.online>



Research Communication

Revisiting the typification of *Hemicyclia porteri* (Putranjivaceae), the basionym of *Drypetes porteri*

T Chakrabarty¹, S Bandyopadhyay², G Krishna²

¹No. 4, Botanical Garden Lane, Howrah 711103, West Bengal, India

²Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Botanic Garden, Howrah 711103, West Bengal, India

Article history

Received: 28 January 2019
Accepted: 11 February 2019
Published: 01 April 2019

Abstract

Hemicyclia porteri Gamble, the basionym of *Drypetes porteri* (Gamble) Pax & K. Hoffm. was lectotypified three times by different authors differently. This paper unambiguously elucidates the precise designation of lectotype for the name, and also emphasizes the need of exerting utmost care while designating a lectotype.

Keywords:

Putranjivaceae; *Drypetes porteri*; lectotypification

Publisher

Horizon e-Publishing Group

Citation

Chakrabarty T, Bandyopadhyay S, Krishna G. Revisiting the typification of *Hemicyclia porteri* (Putranjivaceae), the basionym of *Drypetes porteri*. Plant Science Today 2019;6(2):112-113. <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.2019.6.2.494>

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*Correspondence

T Chakrabarty
✉ tchakrab@gmail.com

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Introduction

Chakrabarty *et al.* (1), in their revision of the genus *Drypetes* Vahl for the Indian subcontinent, first designated a lectotype for the name *Hemicyclia porteri* Gamble, the basionym of *Drypetes porteri* (Gamble) Pax & K. Hoffm. Subsequently, Chakrabarty & Balakrishnan (2) and Arumugam *et al.* (3) lectotypified the name again, thus necessitating the clarification of the lectotypification of the name.

Material and Methods

The present investigation was undertaken to choose the right specimen to typify the name *Hemicyclia*

porteri based on careful study of literature and observation of relevant herbarium specimens housed in the Kew herbarium (K).

Discussion

According to Art. 7.11 of the ICN (4) the citation of 'type' by Chakrabarty *et al.* (1) should be accepted as an inadvertent lectotypification [also see Prado *et al.*, (5)]. Chakrabarty *et al.* (1) cited two sheets at K as 'type' for the name *H. porteri*, which in fact, constituted the first-step lectotypification. However, Chakrabarty & Balakrishnan (2) assuming that the name was not lectotypified by Chakrabarty *et al.* (1), again typified the name by designating one of the sheets at K as the

lectotype. Therefore, the lectotypification by Chakrabarty & Balakrishnan (2) is to be corrected to second-step lectotypification following Art. 9.10 of ICN (4). Recently, Arumugam *et al.* (3), also lectotypified *H. porteri*, without knowing the significance of citation of specimens as 'type' by Chakrabarty *et al.* (1). Thus, the lectotypification by Arumugam *et al.* (3) stands superfluous.

The above remarkable situation calls for exerting utmost care with regard to search of literature, in depth knowledge on the Articles of the ICN (4) dealing with nomenclature and typification as well as of the particular group of plants while designating a lectotype.

Typification

Drypetes porteri (Gamble) Pax & K. Hoffm. in Engl., Pflanzenr. IV, 147.xv (Heft 81): 268. 1922; N.Balach. *et al.* in J. Threatened Taxa 7(14): 8178. 2015 – refer for rediscovery.

– Basionym: *Hemicyclia porteri* Gamble in Hooker's Icon. Pl. 28: t. 2701. 1901.

– **Type** [First-step lectotype, designated by Chakrabarty *et al.* (2)]: INDIA. Tamil Nadu, Madura (now in Theni district), Warsanad (Varusanad) valley, 2000 ft, Apr. 1897, *H.J. Porter s.n.* (K000246663, K000246664, images!). Second-step lectotype [designated by Chakrabarty & Balakrishnan (3)]: *ibid.*, *H.J. Porter s.n.* (K000246663, image!).

Conflict of interest

The authors declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Author's Contribution

All the authors contributed equally to the work presented in this paper.

Acknowledgements

We thank Er. A. K. Pathak, Director-in-Charge, Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Dr. V. P. Prasad, Scientist 'E' & Head of the Office, Central National Herbarium, BSI, Howrah, for the facilities. We are also thankful to the anonymous reviewers for valuable suggestions and refining the manuscript.

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