A NOMENCLATURAL NOTE ON ANDROGRAPHIS LAXIFLORA (ACANTHACEAE)

During a study of the Acanthaceous genus Andrographis and related genera of the tribe Andrographideae some interesting nomenclatural aspects came to light. Nees in Wall. Pl. As. Rar. 3: 116, 1832, described a plant, Haplanthus tener. T. Anderson in J. Linn. Soc. Lond. 9: 502, 1867, transferred this species to Andrographis but called it A. tenuiflora taking the specific epithet tenuiflora from Wallich’s manuscript name Justicia tenuiflora. As J. tenuiflora was never validly published, Kuntze’s combination Andrographis tenera (Nees) Kuntze (Rev. Gen. Pl. 382, 1891) may be considered valid for this species. Overlooking this, Imlay made the combination A. tenera (Nees) Imlay in Kew Bull. 1939: 126, 1939; this is superfluous. Bremekamp in Verh. Nederl. Akad. Wet. (II) 45(2): 20, 1948, points out that this plant was described as early as 1826 by Blume in Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 789, 1826 as Justicia laxiflora. According to Bremekamp the correct name for this plant should be Andrographis laxiflora (Bl.) Lindau. However, Lindau’s combination in Engler & Prantl, Pflanzenfamilien 4(3B): 323, 1895, does not satisfy the conditions of Art. 32 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (1966). The indirect reference given to Blume is ambiguous and does not give a clear indication of the name from which he had taken the specific epithet laxiflora (compare with the example of Cymbopogon martini given in the Code p. 32). Hence, Lindau’s combination should be considered invalid. Moreover, in his treatment of the genus Andrographis he cites Erianthera Nees as a synonym. This probably led the compilers of Index Kewensis (Supplement I: 26, 1886-1895) to assume that Lindau had taken the specific epithet from Erianthera laxiflora Bl.—a name which was never published by Blume. Lindau’s combination was subsequently validated by Hochreutiner (Candollea 5: 233, 1934) who indicated the correct basionym for the first time.


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A NOTE ON AGLAIA LITTORALIS TALB.

In the year 1902, Talbot described a new species of Aglaia Lour., namely A. littoralis based on his collections from Kumpta in North Kanara district (Mysore State) in 1882 and again in 1896. He records that this species is very common along the coasts of Konkan and North Kanara and in low evergreen forests on sandy or laterite soil. Surprisingly enough, a scrutiny of sheets in the various herbaria reveals that there is no record of its having been collected ever since Talbot’s collection in 1896 though it is said to be quite common. For the first time, after a lapse of nearly 68 years this species has been rediscovered from Hosgulde near the foot of the Bulical ghat facing South Kanara. The present collection indicates that this shrub is slowly spreading towards the interior away from the coastal hillocks though it is very rare in the ghat forests. This species is very closely allied to A. barberi Cambell differing in the size and shape of leaves, the length of the inflorescence in relation to the leaf and the nature of fruits which is somewhat rounded to sub-acute at apex but never flattened or depressed globose.

Aglaia littoralis Talb. is a shrub or a small tree scarcely exceeding 2-3 m in height and occurs in open forests at a low altitude of 100-300 m. The yellow panicles are much larger than the leaves proper and the fruits are characteristically bright yellow. The other two allied species, namely A. anamallayana (Bedd.) Koesterm. and A. barberi Cambell are tall trees over 8 m (8-20 m) in height, occur in dense evergreen forests usually at an
altitude of 600-800 m, panicles are much shorter than the leaves and the fruits are initially dull green, turning grey or buff. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that in Shimoga district, A. barbata is often mistaken for A. roxburghiana Miq. Moreover A. roxburghiana has not been collected from these forests so far.

The specific epithet A. littoralis Talb. is unfortunately a later homonym of A. littoralis Miq. ex Zipp. (Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugd. Bat. 4: 45, 1868), a plant restricted to New Guinea. After a careful scrutiny of the descriptions of both the species and verification of the type specimens at Kew, it is clear that A. littoralis Talb. is quite distinct from the new Guinea plant. As per rule 64 of the International Code of botanical nomenclature, a new specific epithet has to be applied for the Indian plant and it is proposed to designate this species as A. talbotii Sundararaghavan, nom. nov., the specific epithet after W. A. Talbot, who was the first to describe the species.

The citation reads as follows:
Aglaja talbotii Sundararaghavan nom. nov. = A. littoralis Talb.

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Galinsoga ciliata (Raf.) Blake (Asteraceae)—A Species New To India

In the course of work on the “Herbaceous Flora of Dehra Dun”, the author collected an interesting compositous weed from the potato-fields, which on critical study and comparison with the authentic herbarium specimens proved to be Galinsoga ciliata (Raf) Blake, a species hitherto not recorded from India.

G. ciliata (Raf.) Blake, a native of S. America, naturalized in England (Butcher, Ill. Brit. Fl. 2: 428, 1961) and elsewhere (Salisbury, weeds & Aliens 57, 1961), and, recently has been recorded from Katmandu in Nepal by Kitamura (Fl. East. Himal 339. 1966). This is the first report of its occurrence from India. A detailed description with critical notes is given below for its easy identification.


Erect, branched, glandular-hairy, annual herbs of 15-75 cm high. Branches slender, terete, often decumbent below and ascending or suberect upwards, hispid with gland-hairs upwards. Leaves shortly petioloed or the uppermost subsessile, in equal pairs; petioles grooved above, hairy, 0.3-4 cm long. Lamina ovate or elliptic-oblong, cuneate and tapering at the base, acute to subacuminate at the apex, serrate, ciliate, subentire in the uppermost ones, thin, sparsely hispid on both surfaces, 3-nerved from the base, 2.6-8 x 0.5-4.3 cm capitula terminal, usually in the center of the forks, yellow, 0.5-0.6(-1) cm across, radiate, heterogamous; peduncle very slender, patently glandular-hairy, 0.5-1.5(-2) cm long. Bracts linear-lanceolate, 0.3-0.5 cm long; involucre sub-campanulate, bracte 2-seriate, ovate, obtuse, scarious-margined, 3-nerved, 0.35-0.4 (0.45) x 0.15-0.28 x 0.3 cm. Ray-flowers 5, ligulate, 2, white 0.5-0.6 (-0.7) cm long, Corolla 0.4 cm long, tube hairy outside, limb spreading, 3-lobed with ovate-triangular.