

The Correct Interpretation of *Euonymus auriculatus* Craib (Celastraceae) and *Myladenia serrata* Airy Shaw (Euphorbiaceae)

ABSTRACT

Euonymus auriculatus Craib (Celastraceae) is a synonym of *Lasiococca comberi* Haines (Euphorbiaceae). The genus *Lasiococca* is a new record for Thailand. *Myladenia serrata* Airy Shaw (Euphorbiaceae) is a synonym of *Xylosma longifolium* Clos (Flacourtiaceae).

Key words: *Euonymus*, *Lasiococca*, *Myladenia*, *Xylosma*, Thailand, synonymy.

Euphorbiaceae are notoriously difficult to identify. In a recent pile of unidentified Malesian Euphorbiaceae, sent to Leiden (The Netherlands) for identification, 90 percent of the specimens appeared to belong to other families. Even experienced taxonomists still make errors of judgement, especially when they have to interpret—to them—new forms. This note deals with two species, one described in the Celastraceae, the other in the Euphorbiaceae.

Euonymus auriculatus Craib

CRAIB (1922) interpreted a specimen collected by A. F. G. Kerr (*Kerr 3620*) in the province of Chiang Mai (called Payap on the label), Thailand. He considered it to be a species of *Euonymus* (Celastraceae) and because of the densely echinate fruit, short petioles and cordate leaf base, it had to be a new species. He subsequently described it as *E. auriculatus* CRAIB (1922).

Recently, the two type sheets of *E. auriculatus* from Aberdeen were sent for identification to Hou in Leiden. Hou first thought that the species was described on the basis of galled fruits, because densely echinate fruits are absent in *Euonymus*. After consultation with Van Balgooy the material landed on my desk, because they were clearly Euphorbiaceae.

Rather atypical for Euphorbiaceae were the subopposite or whorled leaves. Identification of the two specimens was a bit troublesome, because the plants looked like *Erismanthus* (opposite leaves) or *Epiprinus siletianus* (Baill.) Croizat (whorled leaves), both with cordate leaf bases. Unfortunately, these taxa have smooth fruits. Recently, I revised the genus *Lasiococca* for the Malay Archipelago (WELZEN, 1998). The species in this genus have whorled, cordate leaves and echinate fruits. The two duplicates definitely belong to *Lasiococca*. *Lasiococca* is a genus still unknown for Thailand, which is quite curious because the revision of the family is almost finished for the Flora of Thailand project.

Two years before Craib, in the same journal, HAINES (1920) described a new species of *Lasiococca*, *L. comberi* Haines. *Euonymus auriculatus* is synonymous with this species because of the subbasal, submarginal glands on the adaxial leaf surface, the absence of hair-tuft domatia, the pubescent inflorescences, and the broad tubercles on the fruits. A

nice plate can be found in KIU (1982). Consequently *E. auriculatus* is placed into the synonymy of *L. comberi*:

Lasiococca comberi Haines (Euphorbiaceae), Bull. Misc. Inf. Kew: 70 (1920); Kiu, Acta Phytotax. Sinica 20: 108, Fig. 1 (1982). —Type: India, Orissa, Angul, in rocky ravines of the mountains of Mayurbhanj, *Comber* s.n. (K!).

= *Euonymus auriculatus* Craib (Celastraceae), Bull. Misc. Inf. Kew: 170 (1922).—Type: Thailand, Payap, Mê Ta, *Kerr* 3620 (K, holo; iso ABD!, 2 sheets).

Distribution.—India, South China, North and Northeast Thailand, North Vietnam.

Habitat.—Evergreen forest.

After pinpointing *L. comberi* as new record for Thailand, K. Phattarahirankanok and K. Chayamarit from the Forest Herbarium (BKF) in Bangkok drew my attention to a second specimen (*Wongprasert* s.n.), which was collected in the province of Loei (Northeastern floristic district).

***Myladenia serrata* Airy Shaw**

AIRY SHAW (1972) made the first complete revision of all Euphorbiaceae for Thailand, a much needed and excellent piece of work. In a later addendum, AIRY SHAW (1977) described a new genus of Euphorbiaceae for Thailand, *Myladenia*, a monotypic genus with *M. serrata* Airy Shaw as single species. It is only known from the type specimen (Van Beusekom et al. 4104) which bears staminate flowers; pistillate flowers and fruits are absent. The absence, especially, of the fruits caused the confusion. The isotype present in Leiden was originally identified as a species of *Drypetes* (Euphorbiaceae) in 1971. Airy Shaw changed this in 1974 into a tentative *Hydnocarpus*, a Flacourtiaceae. In 1974, when Sleumer (Leiden) was revising this family for Flora Malesiana he readily recognised it as *Xylosma longifolium* Clos (Flacourtiaceae). Therefore the following names have to be synonymized:

Xylosma G. Forst., Fl. Ins. Austr. (1786) 72, nom. cons.—Lectotype: *X. orbiculatum* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) G. Forst. (based on *Myroxylon orbiculatum* J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.).

= *Meliosma* Airy Shaw, Kew Bull. 32 (1977) 29.—Type: *M. serrata* Airy Shaw.

Xylosma longifolium Clos, Ann. Sci. Nat. Ser. 4., Bot. 8 (1857) 231.—Type: *Gaudichaud* 260 (n.v.).

= *Meliosma serrata* Airy Shaw, [Kew Bull. 31 (1976) 378, in obs., nom. nud.] Kew Bull. 32 (1977) 79.—Type: *Van Beusekom, Geesink, Phengkhilai & Wongwan 4104* (holo K; iso L), Thailand, Eastern, Chaiphum, Nam Phrom, 16.20 N, 101.45 E.

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