MEDINILLA FUCHSIOIDES GARDN. (MELASTOMATACEAE)—A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

While conducting a plant exploration tour in Mahendragiri Hills and adjoining regions, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu (77°29′-77°31′ East longitude and 8°23′-8°26′ North latitude), the authors came across a species of *Medinilla* in bloom. On critical examination it was found to be different from the other two species of the genus reported by Gamble in his *Flora of the Presidency of Madras viz., M. beddomei* C. B. Cl. and *M. malabarica* Bedd. The material was, therefore, sent to the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta where it was identified as M. *fuchsioides* Gardn. This species has hitherto been regarded as endemic to Ceylon (C.B. Clarke in Hook. f. *Fl. Brit. India* 2: 548. 1879), and the present report is, thus, a new record for India.

Medinilla fuchsioides Gardn. in *Calc. Journ. Nat. Hist.* 8: 12. 1847; Thw. *Enum. Pl. Zeyl.* 106. 1859; C. B. Cl. in Hook. f. *Fl. Brit. India* 2: 548. 1879; Cogn. in DC. *Monogr. Phan.* 7: 580. 1891.

Field notes: Shrubby; upper surface of leaves dark green, lower surface pale green; peduncle, pedicel and calyx red; corolla pinkish red; filaments yellow, anthers yellowish without, withish within; style creamish; growing from the crevices of rocks in humus soil and found clinging to the rocks.

Key to the South Indian species of *Medinilla*

1. Leaves elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, side nerves prominent
   2. Leaves petiolate, 3-5 nerved, nerves almost from the base ... *M. malabarica* Bedd.
   2. Leaves sessile or subsessile, recurved at apex, usually 5-nerved, 3-nerves arising from the base, 2-nerves a little above ... *M. fuchsioides* Gardn.
1. Leaves orbicular, 3-nerved, side nerves indistinct ... *M. beddomei* C. B. Cl.

Herbarium specimens examined: TAMIL NADU: Grassy slopes, beyond Kandakki Estate, Panagudi, Kanyakumari District, 1210 m, 8-12-1969, *B. V. Shetty* 33084.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are thankful to the Deputy Director, Central National Herbarium, Howrah for kindly confirming the identity of the specimen.

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Date of receipt : 5.10.76. Date of acceptance : 12.8.77

BLUMEA LACINIATA (ROXB.) DC. (ASTERACEAE—INULEAE) HAS TO BE CALLED *BLUMEA SINUATA* (LOUR.) MERR.

Roxburgh (Hort. Beng. 61, 1814, *n.n.*; Fl. Ind. ed. 2. 3: 427, 1832) described the species *Conyza laciniata* and this binomial was later used as the basionym for the combination *Blumea laciniata* (Roxb.) DC. (Prodr. 5: 436, 1836). Randeria (Blumea 10: 176-317, 1960), in her taxonomic revision of the genus *Blumea* accepted this combination as the legitimate name of this most common species occurring in India. However, Merrill (Trans. Amer. Philosph. Soc. 24: 388, 1935) cited *Conyza laciniata* Roxb. as a synonym of a new combination *Blumea sinuata* (Lour.) Merr. based on *Gnaphalium sinu-*

Date of receipt : 26.10.76. Date of acceptance : 13.10.77

atum Lour. (Fl. Cochinch. 497, 1790; ed. Willd. 608, 1793). Interestingly, Randeria (Blumea 10: 298, 1960) placed *Blumea sinuata* (Lour.) Merr. in a category "Taxa and Names of uncertain status"; and thus did not recognise Merrill's combination although he had reduced *Blumea laciniata* (Roxb.) DC. to the rank of a synonym of his combination—*Blumea sinuata* (Lour.) Merr. Further, Merrill (*loc. cit.*) added "Loureiro's concise description [of *Gnaphalium sinuatum*, the basionym of *Blumea sinuata*]* applies unmistakably to the common and widely distributed species of *Blumea* currently known as *B. laciniata* DC. which is apparently fairly common in Indochina and which occurs at the (P. Conduc.), Loureiro's classical locality".

From the above statements, it is evident that the binomial accepted by Randeria (*loc. cit.*)—*Blumea laciniata* (Roxb.) DC. is conspecific with *Blumea sinuata* (Lour.) Merr. The latter combination—*Blumea sinuata* (Lour.) Merr.—thus does have a definite status; and since it antedates *B. laciniata* (Roxb.) DC., it should, according to the ICBN, be accepted as the correct and legitimate name of the plant. The synonymy would be as follows:

Blumea sinuata (Lour.) Merr. Trans. Amer. Philosph. Soc. 24: 388, 1935.

Gnaphalium sinuatum Lour. Fl. Cochinch. 497, 1790; ed. Willd. 608, 1793.

Blumea laciniata (Roxb.) DC. Prodr. 5: 436, 1836; Randeria, Blumea 10: 258, 1960.

Conyza laciniata Roxb. Hort. Beng. 61. 1814, *n.n.*; Fl. Ind. ed. 2, 3: 427, 1832.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The facilities extended by The Director, Botanical Survey of India, for consulting the Library are greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks are expressed to Drs. K.M.M. Dakshini and C. R. Babu for valuable discussions.

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*Emphasis in parenthesis added

ON THE IDENTITY OF *BORRERIA ERADII* RAVI (RUBIACEAE)

Borreria eradii was proposed by Ravi in Journ. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 66 (3): 539. 1970, on the basis of a gathering collected in 1968 from Punalur, Kerala State. He distinguished this species from the closely allied *B. hispida* (L.) K. Schum. (=*Spermacoce hispida* L.) for (1) prominently winged quadrangular stems, (2) soft textured leaves with impressed veins, (3) apically papillate stipular bristles bearing long multicellular hairs with bulbous base and interspersed with glandular papillae, (4) fugaceous funnel-shaped corolla with a narrow tube abruptly widening into a swollen mouth and (5) the fruit with the lower part of the septum only remaining persistent after dehiscence. He observed further that this species is intermediate between *B. hispida* (L.) K. Schum. and *B. ocymoides* Burm. f. in dehiscence of the fruit and resembles *B. stricta* (L. f.) K. Schum. (=*Spermacoce pusilla* Wall.) in the soft textured leaves with impressed veins. In dehiscence, however, this is more akin to *B. ocymoides* than to *B. hispida*.

While checking the identification of *S. hispida* in the Forest Herbarium, Dehra Dun, Nathani & Raizada determined four specimens as *B. eradii* and thereby recorded in *Indian Forester* 102 (10): 682. 1976, its extended distribution to North Bengal, Tripura and Burma.

Ravi correctly distinguished his gathering

Date of receipt : 21.12.76. Date of acceptance : 12.8.77