



Three species of Madagascan *Plectronia* transferred to *Peponidium* (Vanguerieae, Rubiaceae)

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Abstract

Three new combinations are made in the genus *Peponidium*: *P. boivinianum*, *P. densiflorum* and *P. micranthum*. A lectotype is designated for *Plectronia boiviniana*.

Key words: *Canthium*, lectotypification, Madagascar, new combinations, *Pyrostria*

Introduction

On the basis of molecular data and morphology Razafimandimbison *et al.* (2007, 2009) transferred Comorian and Madagascan *Canthium* Lam. (Vanguerieae) species to *Peponidium* (Baill.) Arènes. These *Canthium* species included a few species formerly placed in *Pyrostria* Comm. ex A.Juss. and *Plectronia* L. *Pyrostria*, although closely related to and sometimes confused with *Peponidium*, is a distinct genus (Razafimandimbison *et al.* 2009). As a generic name *Plectronia* was formerly used in the Rubiaceae for a large number of species, mostly belonging to the tribe Vanguerieae and in particular of species now considered to belong to *Canthium*. The use of the generic name *Plectronia* has to be restricted to the former family Oliniaceae (now Penaeaceae; APG III 2009), as *Plectronia* is a generic synonym of *Olinia* Thunb. (Ross 1975: 491, Verdcourt 1987: 127). Based on the study of original material housed in the herbarium at Kew (K, abbreviation after Holmgren *et al.* 1990) it is obvious that three Madagascan species of *Plectronia* described by Baker (1883, 1885, 1887), *P. micrantha* Baker, *P. densiflora* Baker and *P. boiviniana* Baker, require taxonomic placement in *Peponidium*. These three species possess the key characters of *Peponidium*: in particular functionally unisexual/dioecious flowers (see Bridson 1987: 618, Razafimandimbison *et al.* 2009: 165), and deciduous, small cupular bracts that are always located at the bases of the inflorescence peduncles and never enclose the young inflorescences (Razafimandimbison *et al.* 2009). Three new combinations in *Peponidium* are made here, and a lectotype is designated for *Plectronia boiviniana*.

New Combinations

Peponidium boivinianum (Baker) A.P.Davis & Razafim., *comb. nov.*

Basionym:—*Plectronia boiviniana* Baker (1885: 411). Type: MADAGASCAR. Central Madagascar: ‘received’ December 1883, *Baron 3071* (lectotype K!, designated here).

Distribution:—Eastern Madagascar, in humid, evergreen forest, exact locality and habitat details not known.