



## Lectotypification of the Linnaean name *Smilax china* (Smilacaceae)

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The genus *Smilax* Linnaeus (1753: 1028) consists of over 200 species which was widely distributed in tropical and temperate regions, especially in East Asia and North America (Qi *et al.* 2012, Xu *et al.* 2013, Qi *et al.* 2013). Linnaeus (1753) published 13 names under *Smilax* and the name *Smilax china* Linnaeus (1753: 1029) appears to be as yet untypified and is investigated here.

Linnaeus's protologue (Fig. 1) consists of a short diagnosis “*caule aculeato teretiusculo, foliis inermibus ovato-cordatis*”, and four synonyms cited from Linnaeus (1749: 461), Kaempfer (1712: 781), Bauhin (1623: 896), and Plukenet (1705: 101).

**5. SMILAX caule aculeato teretiusculo, foliis inermi-*China*.  
bus ovato-cordatis.  
Smilax caule aculeato, foliis orbiculato-ovatis inermi-  
bus quinquenerviis. *Mat. med.* 461.  
Smilax minus spinosa, fructu rubicundo, radice virtuosa  
Chinæ dicta f. Sankiva. *Kempf. amœn.* 781. t. 782.  
China radix. *Bauh. pin.* 896.  
Fruticulus convolvulaceus spinosus sinicus, floribus  
parvis umbellatis. *Pluk. amalth.* 101. t. 408. f. 1.  
*Habitat in China, Japonia.* 5.  
*Petiolibidentati. Folia ovato-cordata, obtusa cum acumi-  
nisc.***

FIGURE 1. Protologue of *Smilax china* by Linnaeus (1753: 1029).

Linnaeus (1753) cited no specimens under *Smilax china* and therefore all uncited specimens and illustrations have equal priority in lectotypification (Art. 9.12 of the ICN, McNeill *et al.* 2012). The Linnaean Herbarium (LINN) contains two specimens (1182.6 and 1182.7) identifiable as *Smilax china*. Koyama (1983: 78) treated both specimens as types, but as they are not part of a single gathering this designation cannot be accepted as effective lectotypification. The specimen LINN 1182.7 is named “*Smilax china*” by Linnaeus and has no *Species Plantarum* number, strongly suggesting that this material is a post-1753 addition to the collection and thus not original material (see Jarvis 2007) for the name *Smilax china*. The specimen LINN 1182.6 bears the original Linnaeus annotation “5 *china*”, explicitly referring to the number of the species account in Linnaeus's protologue, and therefore acceptable as original material. I have been unable to trace any further original material in any of the other Linnaean and Linnaean-linked herbaria, including the Clifford Herbarium (BM), Herb. Burser (UPS) and Herb. van Royen (L) (listed by Jarvis 2007).

Kaempfer (1712: 782) and Plukenet (1705: 101, t. 408, f. 1) provided illustrations that can be considered for lectotypification. The illustration in Plukenet (1705) shows a stem not clearly terete and the leaves blade obovate. These features are in contrast to Linnaeus's protologue, so the image cannot be the basis of the original description of *Smilax china* and is not part of its original material. The illustration in Kaempfer (1712) is in perfect agreement with the protologue.

In conclusion only two elements associated with the protologue of *Smilax china*, one illustration and one specimen, unambiguously constitute the original material of this name. In order to fix the current application of the name the specimen LINN 1182.6 is here designated as the lectotype. The specimen is preferred over the illustration because of its potential ability to provide large number of additional characters (micro-morphological, chemical, molecular, etc.) (*cf.* Jarvis 2007).