



Article

A new species and new combinations of *Memecylon* in Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia

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Abstract

Memecylon corticosum is re-circumscribed to include *M. kratense* as a variety, and *M. caudatum* is considered synonymous with *M. corticosum* var. *corticosum*. A new combination has been made for *M. pauciflorum* var. *brevifolium* as it is considered conspecific to *M. scutellatum*, and is recognised as a variety. Finally, the new species *M. perplexum* is described from Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo.

Introduction

Memecylon Linnaeus (1753: 359) currently contains 317 species (Renner *et al.* 2007) of small trees and shrubs found in the tropical forests of the Old World. It has been considered as belonging to the Memecylaceae (Renner 1993), however the latest Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (2009) classification includes this family under Melastomataceae. *Memecylon* is vegetatively very similar to *Syzygium* R.Br. ex Gaertner (1801: 166), but can be separated by the presence of an inter-petiolar line. Florally, it differs *inter alia* from Melastomataceae in having anthers with an oil-producing gland on the connective. The following new combinations and new species are published here in preparation for an account of Memecylaceae for the Flora of Peninsular Malaysia where there are 33 species. Previous treatments of *Memecylon* in the region include Bremer (1982, 1983), Craib (1931), King (1900) Maxwell (1980, 1989) and Ridley (1922). Images of cited specimens are available from Hughes & Wijedasa (2012).

Taxonomic treatment

Memecylon corticosum Ridley (1920: 92)

Type:—THAILAND. Peninsular: Chumphon: Tasan, Kloss 7027 (holotype K!).

Memecylon caudatum Craib (1930: 324), *syn. nov.* Type:—THAILAND. Southwestern: Kanchanaburi: Wangka, 700 m, 2 February 1926, Kerr 10433 (lectotype K! here designated, isolectotypes ABD!, BM!, K!)

Memecylon sphaerotherysum Schwartz (1931: 257). Type:—INDONESIA: Kalimantan: Bukit Mehipit, 500 m, 8 December 1924, Winkler 659 (holotype HBG!).

Shrub or slender tree, to 5 m high. **Branchlets** pale straw coloured, sometimes drying darker, with 4 conspicuous wings when young, wings wider towards the apex, extending above the node slightly, rounded at the tip, fragile and rapidly becoming worn, branchlets becoming terete with age; narrowly triangular 2 mm